



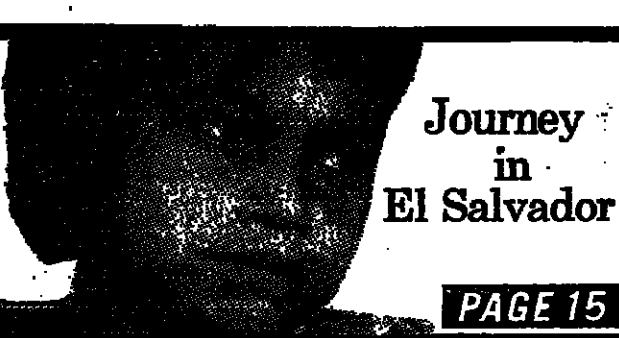
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WEEKEND MONEY

Ministers stung by jump in inflation

By Michael Smith and Peter Rodgers

Ministers leapt to the defence of the Government's anti-inflation strategy yesterday after the shock of an unexpectedly sharp rise in prices during April.

The official retail price index jumped by 2.1 per cent, hoisting the yearly rate of inflation from 6.1 to 6.9 per cent. The monthly rise was the biggest in four years and it means that prices are climbing at their fastest rate since September, 1982.

April's upturn also means that Britain's prices are climbing much faster than the rest of the world. Only Italy of the main industrial nations has a higher rate.

The news brought condemnation of the Government from all three opposition parties. Labour's deputy leader, Mr Roy Hattersley said: "The Government has staked its credibility on reducing inflation but inflation has nearly doubled since the last election."

Dr David Owen, for the Social Democrats, said the figures were "dangerously on course" and he claimed the Chancellor was now boxed in.

"If he tightens his monetary policy any further, it will give a savage twist to unemployment," he said. "If wage inflation follows, unemployment will further rise."

Ministers moved quickly to defend their anti-inflation policies, with the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, sticking to his forecast that after a short rise in the summer, the annual rate would be 5 per cent by the end of the year.

Ministers averred that April's advance was a "one off" and urged that rising prices should not fuel a surge in wage demands.

Mr Lawson said that in his Budget he had warned that inflation was likely to edge up during the first half of the year, before falling back in the

second. "This is my expectation," he added.

Mr Tom King, the Employment Secretary, also suggested that the latest RPI did not indicate a general upsurge in prices.

"It was expected that there would be some increase in inflation through the middle of this year before the level fell back again significantly towards the end of the year," he said.

Although most people had anticipated a rise in April, the scale of the increase was higher than expected. It may lead to prices rising above 7 per cent for the first time in three years and confound Mrs Thatcher's personal view that inflation will soon drop to 3 per cent. One City commentator said: "Mrs Thatcher's 3 per cent seems a distant prospect."

The sharp rise stemmed largely from the budget and seasonal factors. A host of price rises took place in April, including water charges, council rents and prescription charges. Fresh vegetables, beer and spirits and petrol also went up in price, and mortgages increased for the third time in four years.

The rise also reflected the slump in the value of the pound earlier this year, which has driven up the cost of importing raw materials and many food items.

While the pound has recovered some ground, the Government will be nervously watching its performance in currency markets during the summer lest it give a further twist to inflation.

Better news for the Government came with the announcement that industrial production rose to its highest since 1980. Industrial output rose by 2 per cent in March and manufacturing production jumped by 1.4 per cent, largely because of an end to the miners' strike.

But that was cancelled out by the figure for public borrowing in the first month of the financial year. At £1.8 billion, it was the highest since 1974.

Turn to back page, col. 1



Mr Gerry Doherty, who served seven years for carrying a bomb, is carried by supporters after his election as a Sinn Fein member of Derry City Council.

Sinn Fein members to be isolated

From Paul Johnson in Belfast

THE Government and the Democratic Unionists have agreed to isolate the 58 Sinn Fein councillors elected last night to isolate the 59 authorities.

The Official Unionists and the Democratic Unionists announced a pact designed to freeze out the Sinn Fein representatives. According to the Reverend Ian Paisley, leader of the DUP, the alliance meant "we can face as one the common enemy."

And Mr Nicholas Scott, Under Secretary of State at the Northern Ireland Office, repeated the Government's declaration that ministers will not have any contact with Sinn Fein councillors.

He said it would be an insult to the people of Northern Ireland for ministers to do business with people who supported the armed struggle.

This is certain to cause problems because nationalists had the potential to control local authorities and they could produce Sinn Fein chairmen or mayors.

Mr Paisley said: "No right thinking person has any common ground with Sinn Fein whose whole policy is murder."

Mr Harold McCusker, MP, deputy leader of the DUP, said Sinn Fein was not fit to take part in the democratic process.

Turn to back page, col. 5

Kinnock takes gloves off to savage Owen

By John Carvel, Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday abandoned Labour's tactic of nonchalance and disdained the Social Democrats when he accused the SDP leader of having "an ego fat on arrogance and drunk on ambition" and he characterised the Alliance as "a kind of grease that slips and slides to the lowest level of responsibility."

Mr Kinnock was speaking to about 250 delegates at the Welsh Labour conference in Llandudno. He described the SDP leader faces clash and pay policy warning, page 2

SDP as a party "without policy or principle or purpose. All they have is a sort of movable Question Time" programme where the answers are determined by the latest fad and current fashion where only inconsistency is consistent and equivocation is firm."

The Labour leader said later that his remarks should not be regarded as a tactical shift, but SDP-Liberal Alliance politicians were convinced that the strength of Mr Kinnock's attack indicates that Labour now feels so threatened by the Alliance that it has been forced on to the offensive.

Mr Kinnock's speech was first planned as an attack on Government plans for welfare reform and abolition of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme. His decision to turn it into an assault on Dr Owen followed Alliance gains in the county council elections which increased speculation about their chances of holding the balance of power after the next general election.

The opinion polls suggest that the Alliance is taking support fairly equally from Labour and the Conservatives.

Mr Kinnock's tone suggests that the forthcoming byelection in Brecon and Radnor, where Labour and Liberals were almost level pegging behind the Tories last time, will be strongly contested.

The Leader of the Opposition said that Dr Owen was following a "well-worn path." He quoted Nye Bevan's remark that political renegades "always start their career with treachery as the best men of all parties and end up in the Tory knacker."

He attacked Dr Owen's defence policy commitment to no early first use of nuclear weapons. "That is the approach which Dr Owen calls balance. It is a sort of tight-rope between fibs and downright lies," Mr Kinnock said.

"Even some members of the SDP have realised they are dealing with an ego fat on arrogance, drunk with ambition."

After describing the Alliance as "liquid grease that slips and slides to the lowest level of responsibility," he went on: "Let the people of Britain know they are not after power for anything but position, not after power for anything but paralysis."

He accused the Alliance of "turning back page, col. 5

Fatalism in Delhi murder court

From Eric Silver in New Delhi

SATWANT-SINGH, the surviving Sikh bodyguard charged with assassinating Mrs Indira Gandhi, went on trial for his life here yesterday.

For security reasons, the trial is taking place inside Tihar gaol, on the edge of Delhi. The court, assembled in a bare room about 40 by 20 feet.

Judge Mahesh Chandra, wearing the Indian lawyer's black jacket and white cravat, sat behind a plain wooden desk on a slightly raised platform, a firm, patient figure in horn-rimmed glasses.

Thirty Indian and foreign reporters, who were frisked twice before being admitted, sat on hard seats behind a single row of lawyers and their clerks. There was no witness box and no dock.

Satwant Singh, and the two other Sikhs accused of conspiring with him, sat on ordinary chairs to the judge's left, guarded by four uniformed policemen, none of them visibly armed. Three ceiling fans fought a losing battle to keep the crowded chamber cool in a temperature of more than 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

Satwant Singh, who was shot and seriously wounded after his arrest on October 31, is a tall, lean, 22-year-old, with a pale, hollow face, aquiline nose, and immature beard.

At first he seemed tense and preoccupied, but as the afternoon dragged on, with defence lawyers arguing points of procedure, he relaxed.

When his father, a Punjabi peasant carrying his lunch in a pink cloth bag, was allowed to join the press corps in the back row, Satwant smiled and asked an usher to give him a glass of water.

Satwant's lawyer, Mr P. N. Lekhi, complained that he had not received notice of yesterday's hearing. Judge Chandra retorted that his objection was only of academic interest, since Mr Lekhi and his junior were there for all to see.

Another of the accused, Sub-Inspector Balbir Singh, who served with Satwant on the prime minister's bodyguard, had a more solid complaint. He had not been able to find a lawyer to defend him, and the man approached by the court at his request had turned him down. The judge adjourned the trial until Monday to give him more time.

The three prisoners — Satwant, Balbir, and Khar Singh — were escorted back to their cells. The hearing faded out rather than ended, a domestic affair if Tihar gaol happens to be home. At the door, a reporter asked Satwant if he had any problems. "Only 10 bullets worth of problems," he replied with the resignation of a man who has been close to death once and may soon be again.

Railmen to defy court ban on strike

By John Ardill, Labour Correspondent

The National Union of Railwaymen is to defy a High Court injunction and go ahead with its planned strike on the London Underground from Monday without calling a ballot.

The union, which has a conference policy against compliance with "anti-union legislation" faces substantial fines and the sequestration of its assets.

The NUR's executive voted unanimously to defy the injunction, which was obtained by London Regional Transport earlier yesterday, after the union told its 15,000 LRT members to go on indefinite strike in a dispute about one-man operated trains.

LRT had said it would bring contempt proceedings if the union did not comply. The NUR is already being sued by British Rail for damages over two strikes held without ballots but this is the first time the union has been served with a pre-strike injunction.

The union was not represented at the private hearing before Mr Justice Tudor Price and claimed that an invitation to appear in court at 12.30 arrived at 11 am, leaving no time to attend. The hearing had been adjourned to let the NUR be represented.

The injunction ordered the union to call off the stoppage until a ballot was held.

LRT will try to maintain a normal service on Monday but admits the service will be paralysed if all the NUR members — half the Underground drivers — obey the strike call.

Aslef, the other rail union involved, has refused to get involved in the dispute, but its policy is not to cross picket lines.

British Rail engineering workers at Swindon voted yesterday for an immediate overtime ban and a one-day strike on May 29 in protest at the closure of the works in March, with the loss of 2,300 jobs. They will seek support from other workers involved in the rundown at Glasgow, Doncaster and Eastleigh. About 5,000 jobs are at risk.

Next week

Monday

MINER CONCERNS
The NCB had a strategy with the media. The NUM had none. The Media Page examines some striking lessons.

BIRTH RIGHT

"My husband filmed the birth. He said smile and I did." Birth Mother Sheila Kitzinger talks to Guardian Women about the ecstasy without the agony.

Tuesday

PASS WORDS

As the exam season approaches, even the radio is tuned to advise. Education Guardian on the revision business.

THE HUNGER

The starvation of the Maasai has missed the media spotlight because it's slow and systematic. But it's just as deadly. Guardian Women

Wednesday

TESTING TIMES

Guardian Sport begins a five-part serialisation of Mike Brearley's definitive new book on cricket leadership with the story behind the most remarkable Test of all time.

HOMING INSTINCTS

Why should old age be seen as miserable, useless and uninteresting? Society Tomorrow reports on a new approach to care

NEWS IN BRIEF

Syrian pledge

FIGHTING flared in Beirut yesterday after President Assad of Syria promised help to bring peace to the Lebanon. And US officials disclosed they had warned Iran of possible military reprisals if four American hostages were executed. Reports, page 1.

Bill crawls on

A DEAD bill to outlaw kerb crawling was resubmitted in the Commons yesterday. Page 3.

Drug immunity

THE DHSS cannot intervene in the case of a firm charging GPs 70 times its hospital price for drugs. Page 3.

The weather

DRY and sunny. Details back page.

The Guardian

Production difficulties in London on Thursday night caused the loss of some copies of the paper in certain edition areas. We apologise to those readers who did not receive The Guardian.

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Belgium	9.00 fr
Denmark	8.00 kr
France	3.50 fr
Germany	3.50 dm
Greece	100 dr
Italy	3.00 lire
Netherlands	2.00 gld
Spain	100 pes
Sweden	120 öre
Switzerland	3.75 fr

Miss Rhonda Paisley elected in Belfast

Grim task of fire police

By Malcolm Pitters

Forty-three of the 52 Bradford fire victims were found at the back of the gutted stand, the inquest into the disaster heard yesterday when it opened.

The bodies were "welded together" by falling asphalt from the roof, a police surgeon told the coroner, and it took 114 policemen three full days to identify positively the victims.

Rescuers had to use crowbars and axes to free the bodies and a computer was used to help with identification.

The inquest also heard from the Assistant Chief Constable of West Yorkshire that people were slow to move when police began evacuating spectators, because they did not appreciate the danger. The fire was not accessible and people were unable to put it out.

Mr James Turnbull, the coroner, opened the inquest to hear evidence of identification, and said it would only resume after the judicial inquiry by Mr Justice Popplewell had concluded.

Full report, back page; appeal trustees appointed, page 2.

Time catches up with old robber

By Martin Wainwright

Britain's oldest armed robber was sent down for seven years yesterday, waving at a packed court in the Old Bailey and quipping: "If you can't do time, don't do crime."

Half-an-hour earlier, Mr John Mangan, 69, a grandfather, had started the court by suddenly abandoning his two-week-old defence and telling the jury: "I'm as guilty as sin."

Although belated, Mr Mangan's honesty struck a chord with Judge Charles Dean QC, who told the ex-robber he had served himself from three years inside.

"If you had battled this

case through to the bitter end and been convicted, I would have put you down for the full count of 10 years," Judge Dean said.

Like most of those present in court, the judge showed some sympathy for the elderly outlaw who suffers from arthritis, a weak heart, and the effects of being shot in the head during a London gangland feud in 1972.

"You and I are the same age and we are both experienced professionals," he told Mr Mangan, although the robber's mystery, a criminal techniques was revealed in court as somewhat erratic.

Mr John Morris QC, defend-

ing, described his client as "not the cleverest of robbers" and recounted several past misadventures. On two shop raids Mr Mangan had stumbled and alien as he fled and on a third, backing away from his victim, gun in hand, he had walked into the path of a car which had knocked him down.

The prosecution said that he had terrified his prey during seven armed robberies in south-east London over the past five years and stolen £21,300. He had 80 previous convictions stretching back to 1947 and he told the jury after his change of heart: "I've spent years and years in

The court heard that Mr Mangan was a "rough diamond," a friend of Diana Dors and a former messenger for the Kray twins. But he used his right to speak, before thanking the judge and making a cheery exit, to repent of "I've done wrong and must be punished," he said. "But may I warn all youngsters not to ruin their lives by crime. It just doesn't pay."

Mr Morris, in his plea for mitigation, confirmed that Mr Mangan had indeed seen the light. He told the court: "There are not many armed robbers about at the age of 62 and Mangan realises that he is at the end of the road."



What are his chances of a happy retirement?

Almost half the people who die before they reach 75 do so as a result of heart disease. Yet the factors that influence this may start in the cradle. Or even earlier.

That's why the British Heart Foundation is funding research work into this and all other aspects of heart disease.

But being a charity we rely totally on your support. Send off the coupon today and find out how you can help beat Britain's biggest killer.

(Figures taken from official Government statistics for 1982 on deaths under 75 in Britain)

We can't beat heart disease without you.

Please send me more information on the work of the BHF and details of how I can help.

Send this coupon to the British Heart Foundation, 102 Gloucester Place, London W1H 4DH.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____

British Heart Foundation
The heart research charity.

Thatcher persuades retreating firm to give aid

By John Carvel and James E. H. H. H.

The Prime Minister has persuaded Courtaulds to give aid to the Wrexham area, where two of its mills are about to close with the loss of 1,100 jobs.

A deal is being worked out between the company and the Welsh Development Agency, which will not save the operation but relates mainly to leasing arrangements for new ventures.

Mrs Thatcher took an interest in the closure of the firm's Wrexham and Delyn plants when she was approached by three employees during a recent visit to the area.

As a result she wrote to Sir Christopher Hogg, the company chairman, and asked him to come up with an aid package for the area.

The Prime Minister's suggestion was that such aid should at least equal that put together by BP to soften the impact of redundancies at its Llanidloes refinery, South Wales.

The shadow Welsh secretary, Mr Barry Jones, says that the Courtaulds closure plan conflicts with guidelines issued by an Industrial Society committee on the need to inform and consult workers. Sir Christopher sat on the committee.

The speed and scale of the closure programme has been dramatic even by the bleak standards of the United Kingdom industry. Since the late 1960s the group has shut five plants in North Wales and reduced its workforce from 7,600 to 700.

Trade union leaders reacted yesterday with some scepticism about Mrs Thatcher's motives. Mr Tecwyn Jones, Flint district officer of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said: "It is all well and good for Mrs Thatcher to have a go at Courtaulds."

"The company has been particularly uncaring in the way it has shut plants in an area of high unemployment. But this is just a sham on her part to focus all the blame on industry when she and her government have done nothing to help create new jobs."

Courtaulds refused yesterday to comment on the exchange of letters between the Prime Minister and Sir Christopher saying that they were "private correspondence".

However, a spokesman denied that the company had ignored its social responsibilities. "At all major sites where we have been forced to close we have set up job counselling services in an attempt to help people."

Mrs Thatcher toured North Wales several days before she wrote to the company. Union leaders said that their efforts to draw ministerial attention to the region's plight had failed.

Watchdog to contest conveyancing U-turn

By Malcolm Dean

The Consumers Association and backbench MPs said yesterday that they would fight to make the Government restore its commitment to allow building societies to offer a combined mortgage and conveyancing deal to housebuyers.

Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney-General, indicated in the Commons on Thursday—as forecast in that day's Guardian—that the commitment had been dropped.

He put forward the same argument as the Law Society—that people must be protected against the conflict of interest which would arise from a building society or a bank and its client. There would be protection in the building society bill which the Government will bring forward

in the next session of Parliament. This would and any real threat to the solicitors' 180-year-old monopoly on paid conveyancing. Licensed conveyancers will begin work next year but solicitors regarded building societies as the main danger.

Most housebuyers turn first to a building society, which would provide a one-stop shop and cut out large numbers of solicitors. About 50 per cent of solicitors' income comes from conveyancing.

Mr David Tench, the Consumers Association lawyer who has campaigned to end the monopoly, yesterday described the Attorney-General's explanation as "moonshine".

The Government was forced to legislate by the success of the private member's bill to widen competition in convey-

ancing, which was drafted by Mr Tench and received a second reading in the Commons in December 1983. Mr Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Grimsby, who introduced the bill produced various letters, memorandums and statements from ministers yesterday to support his assertion that the Government's commitment was unequivocal.

He met ministers four times before agreeing to withdraw his bill in February 1984, and allow the Government to proceed with its legislation.

A Government memorandum dated January 12, 1984, suggested that there would be no great problem with cases posing a potential conflict of interest. "So far as conflicts of interest are concerned, our provisional view is that we can rely primarily on appropriate

amendments to the solicitor practice rules," it said. The Building Societies Association should issue a code of practice, said the memorandum. There would be "a statutory requirement for societies to inform clients of the desirability of seeking independent advice where, for instance, the society wishes to impose a special condition on the loan."

The code would have prohibited building societies from discriminating against borrowers who chose not to use the society's conveyancing services.

Mr Mitchell produced a written parliamentary answer from the Solicitor-General on February 17, 1984, announcing publication of a consultation paper on how to avoid conflicts of interest "when solicitors employed by banks, building societies and other

organisations are permitted to undertake conveyancing." Mr Mitchell said yesterday: "There was no question then of 'it' or 'whether' building societies would be allowed to provide conveyances. The answer talks about 'when'."

Conflict of interest only affects a tiny number of cases. If the legislation is not introduced it would be dishonest, deceitful, mendacious and untrue."

He gave three reasons why the Government would have to restore its undertaking. First, because it had given a commitment. "It was clear and unequivocal. It was given on behalf of the Lord Chancellor. The Government cannot afford to have him seen to be yet another duplicitous politician."

Second, they cannot be seen to be giving in to the vested interests of the lawyers. They are meant to be dedicated to smashing vested interests. Third, because of the merits of the case. There has to be more competition in housebuying."

Mr Tench said the conflict of interest argument raised by the Law Society was "the height of hypocrisy." Solicitors had been representing both clients and building societies for years without the Law Society protesting about conflict.

These solicitors received two sets of fees for one piece of work—checking the deeds and papers. Solicitors had started to set up property shops from the beginning of this year and would still provide conveyancing for the shops' clients.

Leader comment, page 10.

Half a million children will be hit by next week's actions

Joseph stolid as NUT strikes go into top gear

By Andrew Moneur, Education Staff

Sir Keith Joseph yesterday turned down a request from parents to intervene in the teachers' pay dispute—while the National Union of Teachers was drawing plans for the biggest selective strike action in its history.

Up to 500,000 children will be affected when the NUT calls out 12,500 members next week, hitting 825 schools spread across 43 authorities in England and Wales. The majority will join three-day strikes, starting on Tuesday.

The action is going ahead although the employers are committed to making an improved pay offer at Thursday's

meeting of the Burnham committee, in an attempt to resolve the dispute which has caused three months' upheaval. The NUT walkouts would have been more widespread but for the decision of more education authorities to put their names to the growing list of voicing support for the teachers' case.

Another five authorities, including Conservative-controlled Norfolk, have gained exemption from NUT action by making sympathetic statements. A

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total of 42 councils have now done so.

Sir Keith, the Education Secretary, was yesterday urged to take action to bring an end to the dispute, meeting his obligations under the 1944 Education Act.

The appeal came from nine parents in inner London who visited his department to express concern about the "destructive" impact of the dispute in schools and the government's apparent inaction.

Sir Keith has intervened in the dispute to tell the local authority employers repeatedly that he will not make more money available to fund an improved pay offer.

"We don't feel that by standing on the sidelines wringing his hands he is doing anything to expedite this dispute," said Mrs Charlotte Gibbons, vice-chairwoman of the Inner London parent central consultative committee.

Sir Keith told the parents that he bitterly regretted the disruption to children's education. But the Government was not prepared to give something for nothing.

He said that it was deplorable that the teachers were not prepared to discuss a new salary structure.

Action to bring more pressure on the employers is also being planned by the second largest teaching union, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers.

It will call out members on guerrilla strikes in another five areas from June 3. The authorities involved are: Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Norfolk, Northumberland and South Glamorgan.

resolutions must also be approved by the policy committee. However, the leadership argues that the clear intention of the constitution is that the system of power during joint policy-making should apply to all decisions of the conference.

The leadership's proposed amendment will bring the constitution into line with this principle, but it will be opposed by many members of the Council for Social Democracy in Kensington Town Hall this afternoon on the grounds that it will downgrade the council's status and turn it into a rubber stamp for the policy committee.

Owen, who chaired the conference, said the inflation tax needed to be "fleshed out." Certain factors had already been removed to meet the criticism that it would function as a tax on success.

An Alliance government would use the inflation tax to fund the project, which, it is estimated, will cost between £80 and £100 million. Nato, which will provide 60 per cent of the cost, fears its vital computer systems could be intercepted by enemy agents in wartime.

The recent film War Games, in which young computer "hackers" broke into a defence system, illustrated the

possibility, acknowledged for years by defence experts, that existing communications systems are not inviolate.

The US Air Force is so committed to improving its protective measures that it employs teams of experts who deliberately try to break into the defence systems through computer-linked telephone systems.

Computer companies were told yesterday that one requirement of the new computer network would be its multi-level security, which is designed to restrict the average serviceman's knowledge of



STATION OFFICER Dennis Budd assessing the damage at Torquay United's soccer ground yesterday after its wooden stand caught fire. It is believed to have been caused by an electrical fault.

The fire wrecked a third of the 65-year-old stand, which would almost certainly have been pulled down soon because it broke fire safety rules to

be introduced in the wake of the Bradford disaster. Forensic experts spent the day sifting through and police said there was no evidence that the fire, at 2am, had been started deliberately.

Torquay are bottom of the Fourth Division. Detective Superintendent Brian McCreery, head of Torquay CID, said: "The blaze started in the void

between the seats at the back of the stand and the office accommodation below. There were no signs of a break-in."

Sixty seats, offices and a shower room were destroyed and a souvenir shop and referees changing room were damaged in the club's second fire in the past year. Damage yesterday was put at more than £200,000.

A Mid-Glamorgan county councilor and miner, Mr Ray Davies, has drawn up a petition appealing for clemency for the two men.

He is asking the former Labour leader, Mr Michael Foot, MP for Blaenau, to present the petition to the Court of Appeal.

Disaster trustees appointed

By Malcolm Pithers

TRUSTEES for the Bradford fire disaster appeal were appointed yesterday to handle the £700,000 already pledged to the fund.

The trustees are making payments to individuals, but pointed out that neither the amounts nor the recipients would be identified. They are also in liaison with authorities who were involved in the Aberfan disaster and the Penlee lifeboat tragedy.

Mr Roger Suddards said the trustees want to avoid the mistakes which have been made in similar large-scale fundraisers.

Mr Suddards said that some families may consider that they had a claim against others. The trustees would have to consider whether to take potential claims into account.

He said that there could be a surplus of funds. The trustees would have to consider how to use this, possibly through a memorial.

But the main aim was to relieve suffering and help those with financial problems quickly.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Labour leader and his wife, Gloria, yesterday visited the charred remains of the stand at Bradford City's Valley Parade ground.

They spent 20 minutes inspecting the blackened structure and looking at floral tributes placed at the back of the stand. Mr Kinnock met the club chairman, Mr Stafford Hodgkinson, the Opposition leader also visited the city's police headquarters. Later he visited St Luke's hospital, where 65 people are still being treated.

Health Minister, said that the hospital staff tending the disaster victims were an "inspiration to the nation." After visiting survivors, he said the patients he met were "amazingly cheerful."

Tamils fleeing terror may be sent back

By Stephen Cook

The increase in the number of Tamils coming to Britain to escape the communal violence in Sri Lanka in the past few days has prompted the Government to plan new measures to turn some of them away.

Since April last year, the Home Office has had a policy of not returning Tamils to the island, where terrorist attacks and reprisals against civilians have continued since the anti-Tamil riots of 1983 and are now escalating.

But next week, the Home Office will announce that people who arrive without advance entry clearance will be sent back to the island unless they can persuade immigration officers that they would face severe hardship.

Ministers believe that some of the Tamils who have arrived since last April have been taking advantage of the new return policy to try to better their economic prospects by settling in Britain.

This view astonished refugee agencies. "The people who are coming are nearly all educated people with their own homes and jobs," said Mr Maureen Connolly, of the United Kingdom Immigrants Advisory Service.

"People like that don't get up and leave everything they have on the off-chance of settling here. All the people I have interviewed have had a bad time—harassed on buses, detained and interrogated, seen their neighbours disappear."

There are no plans to send back people who have already been allowed to stay, and all arrivals have the right to apply for asylum. But asylum applications can be dismissed within days and applicants may then be sent back.

Mr Connolly said that of the 2,000 Tamils who had fled to Britain since 1983, about 900 have only been given temporary admission and can be put on a plane at any time.

"We urgently need a policy from the Government," she said. What is needed is a declaration, as in the cases of Iraq, Afghanistan, Poland and Uganda, that people can have exceptional leave to remain and live more normal lives."

Mr Martin Barber, director of the British Refugee Council, said: "Our position, and that of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and Amnesty International, is that Tamils should not at present be forced to return to Sri Lanka. Any such deportations will mean an outcry."

The Government and refugee organisations are having difficulty in finding accommodation for refugees. Yesterday, 66 newly-arrived Tamils with nowhere to live were in detention and remand centres.

Mr Barber appealed for offers of accommodation, and said the Government might eventually have to open hostels or camps.

The Tamil Information Centre in London said yesterday that British Airways has started refusing to carry passengers from Sri Lanka if they do not have advance entry clearance, which takes months to obtain from the British High Commission in Colombo.

A British Airways spokeswoman said last night that after consultation with the British High Commission in Colombo, it was only carrying passengers without entry clearance for Britain if they agreed to purchase a return ticket.

A Home Office spokesman said that between July, 1983, and December last year, 700 applications for asylum had been received from Tamils. Four hundred and fifty were outstanding, 200 had been decided, and the rest withdrawn.

Two had been granted refugee status, 28 had been given temporary leave to remain, and the remaining 170 had been refused but given temporary admission.

Inspectors suggested

By a Staff Reporter

The inquiry into the death of 19 patients from salmonella food poisoning at Stanley Road Hospital, Wakefield, ended yesterday with suggestion that an Inspectorate of Hospital Kitchens should be set up, on the lines of HM Inspectors for Schools.

Mr Timothy Hartley, counsel to the inquiry, said that the inspectors should visit each kitchen at least once a year, unannounced, and make at least two follow-up visits.

They would be less concerned with enforcing regulations than with working towards an ideal standard set by the DHSS. Their visits would be supported by frequent microbiological sampling in the kitchen.

Mr Hartley told the inquiry that beef was the most likely vehicle for the infection in August last. Wakefield, with a grave served with cottage pie as a weaker second favourite.



Frankie Fraser leaving Wormwood Scrubs yesterday

Out of gaol in a Rolls

THE former gangster, "Mad" Frankie Fraser, once known as Britain's most violent man, was released from prison yesterday after more than 19 years behind bars.

Fraser, aged 53, a member of the notorious Charles Richardson gang in the 1960s, was driven away from Wormwood Scrubs, West London, by a friend in a Rolls-Royce.

Fraser was moved to Wormwood Scrubs a few weeks ago after going on hunger strike in protest at his alleged mistreatment by prison guards at Canterbury. He had been in prison since 1968 for his part in the activities of the Richardson gang. In 1970, his original 15-year sentence was extended by five years for his part in a riot at Parkhurst.

Fraser was first sent to approved school at the age of 13 for stealing 48 cigarettes.

Pym plays down voting against government

By our Political Correspondent

The leader of Centre Forward, Mr Francis Pym, said on the Channel 4 television programme A Week in Politics last night that his group would not vote against the Government "too often."

It would operate like every other party group within the normal party rules and the Tory chief whip would know all about its discussions.

"We hope in this way that we will have more influence than we had individually before," Mr Pym said.

The former Foreign Secretary was asked if he intended to influence Government policy by an implied threat of withdrawing support in the voting lobbies.

He pointed out that well before the group was set up there had been votes over the

last two years when more than 30 Tories had not supported the Government. There was nothing new about that.

Mr Pym went on: "Also with a large majority of this size there's no way that a vote is going to force the Government to change their policy. I think it is only the weight of the argument that we produce that is likely to do it, together with events, which are always much more significant in politics than any argument."

"It may be that if we feel very strongly about some issue, we will wish to show that by voting. But that too often."

Mr Pym "totally and absolutely" rejected the idea that the purpose of his group was to establish an identity in parliament with a view to a general election where no party had an outright majority.

Maguire evidence plea

A minister yesterday urged the campaigners working to clear the name of the Maguire family in the explosives case, to submit any new evidence immediately to the Home Secretary Mr Leon Brittan.

Lord Glenarthur, a junior Health and Social Services minister replying to a Lords debate, said he would draw Mr Brittan's attention to the issue and any further consideration of the Maguire case would take full account of the points raised by the former West Belfast MP, Lord Pitt, and other peers.

Annie Maguire and six members of her family were imprisoned for a total of 69 years in 1976. The forensic evi-

dence in the case was produced by an 18-year-old apprentice scientist and is now widely regarded as unreliable.

A thin-layer chromatography test was used to detect traces of nitro-glycerine from samples and swabs taken from the Maguire kitchen in north London.

Mrs Maguire was released after serving nine years of a 14 year sentence for possession of explosives.

Lord Pitt said the Home Secretary should reopen the case because it was "the one and only case in modern times in which persons were convicted and sentenced on such terms of imprisonment on such flimsy evidence."

OBITUARY

Lead actor

HUGH BURDEN, the actor, latterly best known for his radio work, has died, aged 72. During his long period of work in the theatre, after the war, he distinguished himself taking over leading roles in a number of long-running plays, succeeding Michael Wildgen in *Quiet Weekend* and *White The Shires*.

In 1955, his most successful year, he played in two important London premieres: *Sartre's Huis Clos* and *Beckett's Waiting for Godot*, in which he was Vladimir.

Royal Scots corporal machine-gunned three colleagues in £19,000 snatch

Army payroll killer gets 30 years

A corporal who shot dead a retired major and two soldiers in a £19,000 payroll robbery yesterday was given a life sentence with a recommendation by the judge that he serve at least 30 years.

The jury at Edinburgh High Court took 90 minutes to reach a unanimous verdict convicting Andrew Walker, who served with the Royal Scots — of the murders and robbery.

Walker's three victims, retired Major David Cunningham, aged 56, staff sergeant Terence Hosker, aged 38, and Private John Thomson, aged 25, were shot dead with a Sterling sub-machine gun in the south of Edinburgh shortly after picking up a payroll for Glencorse barracks on January 17.

The three men were former colleagues of Walker, who was a small arms instructor at Glencorse, the Scottish infantry training depot, shortly before the murders.

Only £100 of the £19,000 has been recovered. Police believe the rest is hidden somewhere in the Pentlands Hills where the corporal made many lonely treks.

Walker, who had lodged a special defence of alibi, claimed he was driving elsewhere at the time of the shootings.

Walker, married with two children, sat impassively as the jury returned its verdict, but shook his fist as he was led away after sentence.

He was nicknamed Billy Liar by his Royal Scots comrades, and sustained the £19,000 payroll to sustain a braggart lifestyle.

Walker, regarded by his army superiors as a dedicated junior NCO, had long lived in a private fantasy world, seeing himself as the hero of commando-style exploits.

The regular payroll deliveries from the small Lothian town of Penicuik presented the opportunity to satisfy his need for money. He had been planning the crime for months.

Walker knew that on January 17, the Land Rover would contain a retired major working in administration and two serving soldiers.

At the end of 1984, when faced with a £2,000 car bill, his solution was to order an £8,500 MG Maestro, claiming he would pay cash on delivery in February. At the time he owed Access the credit card company, £900.

He told his wife, Mary, aged 27, who lived in married quarters with John, aged 7, and Cheryl, aged 4, that he had found a cache of stolen money in the Pentlands on one of his many solitary walks.

He then persuaded a comrade to lend him his car. He was waiting outside the Royal Bank of Scotland when his three victims arrived and went in to collect the payroll.

It was revealed during police investigation that it was not the first time Walker had set his trap. In December, he planned to commit the crime when a bumper £50,000 Christmas payroll was picked up.

But on that occasion the soldiers escaped with their lives by parking at the front, instead of the rear entrance of the bank.

Walker used his position as an instructor to slip out the machine gun he used from the camp armoury.

With only Private Thomson in the vehicle, he climbed into the back. Police believe he then forced the men to drive away from the bank.

His wife, whom he met in 1975 and married three months later, affirmed her husband's innocence and stood by him.

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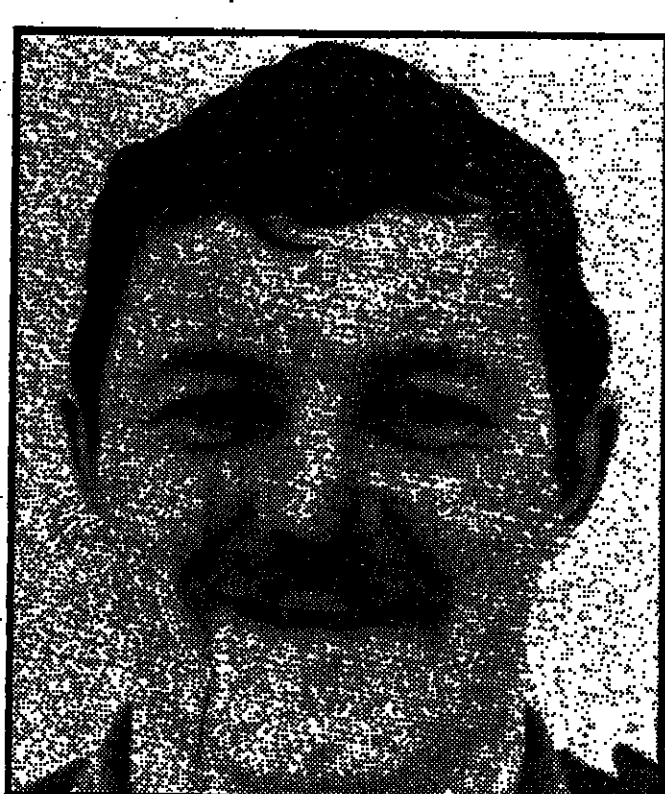
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Corporal Walker — unpopular braggart who lived in a fantasy world and turned to murder as "a military solution" to his need for cash.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Political move by CPSA

THE Civil and Public Services Association, decided yesterday to ballot its 145,000 members on setting up a political fund. The decision was taken against the advice of the departing Broad Left national executive, which argued that the time was not right to win such a ballot.

Mr Alistair Graham, the general secretary, said that the vote would be purely on the issue of setting up a political fund. There would have to be a further ballot if there was an attempt to affiliate to a political party.

Mr Kevin Woods, representing the Department of Health and Social Security — the union's largest section — argued that if any Civil Service campaign was interpreted as political and the union had no political fund, it would be faced with either calling it off or risking contempt of court fines.

Optica crash, men's injuries

TWO police officers whose Optica observation plane crashed this week died of multiple injuries, an inquest heard yesterday.

PC Gerry Spencer, aged 37, and Detective Constable Malcolm Wildshire, aged 44, were over Ringwood, Hampshire, the day after police accepted the plane for tests. The inquest was adjourned until July 18.

Conviction halts TV programme

ULSTER Television scrapped a religious affairs programme which was to have been shown last night after its presenter, a churchman, was fined £50 for indecency.

Mr Robert Byers, aged 42, of the Church of Ireland was convicted on Thursday of indecent behaviour with a seaman. His solicitor said Mr Byers, of Kelvin Parade, Belfast had drunk a lot of alcohol.

Church urged to reject Warnock

A REPORT to be debated next week by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland — condemns the Warnock report on human fertilisation and embryology.

Warnock advocates practices which deny the "essential humanity" of embryos, says the Board of Social Responsibility report. "No embryos should be brought into existence purely for research," it says.

Sextuplet dies after 15 days

ONE of the Cambridge sextuplets, Daniel Underhill, died yesterday at the city's Rosie Maternity Hospital. He was born 15 days ago to Mrs Jane Underhill, of Burwell, Cambridgeshire.

Daniel did not recover from an operation for a bowel perforation. His two sisters and three brothers were said to be stable.

Ministry admits it cannot curb drug firm prices

By Andrew Veitch, Medical Correspondent

The Department of Health and Social Security has admitted that it cannot intervene on the marketing tactics of a firm which is charging the Health Service 70 times more for a drug when it is prescribed by GPs than when it is prescribed by hospital doctors.

The drug, called Diuride K, is used to relieve the build-up of fluid in heart patients. It is officially priced at £89.61 a thousand tablets which is what the NHS pays when GPs prescribe it. But the makers, Napp Laboratories, have offered it to hospitals at £1 a thousand.

Mersey regional health authority rejected the offer. Their pharmacist in charge of bulk buying wrote to Napp: "You are either making a colossal profit out of the community or are giving it away to hospitals at the expense of prescribing habits."

"The net result could be a large increase in the use of Diuride K instead of much cheaper generic (unbranded) drugs. This is against the best interests of the Health Service."

Mersey health authority asked the DHSS to intervene. We strongly disapprove of the practice," the department replied.

Napp made the same offer to the Wandsworth group of hospitals in London who also turned it down and complained to Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Health Minister, that it represented an attempt to use hospital consultants to influence the prescribing habits of GPs.

DHSS officials have asked Napp to explain the prices, but have let it be known that until new laws or regulations are introduced they are powerless to control such offers.

A Napp spokeswoman yesterday declined to reply to the criticisms from Merseyside. She said: "We have had discussions with the DHSS about the pricing structure of Diuride K and the matter was resolved to the department's satisfaction."

Senior doctors and pharmacists in Merseyside, in Wandsworth, which includes St George's medical school, are concerned that this type of marketing could encourage consultants to choose drugs on the grounds of cost rather than clinical merit.

"This in turn influences GPs' drug choices. Consultants recommend regimes to GPs; patients tend to stick with the drug they have been given in hospital when they return home; and drug firm representatives cite consultants' practice when they sell to GPs."

While consultants are conscious of costs — the more they spend on drugs the less the hospital has for other services — GPs have no direct incentive to control costs.

Most drug firms offer discounts to hospitals and health authorities, partly because they buy in bulk, and partly because of consultants' influence on GPs. The average discount, pharmacists said, runs at around 13 per cent.

A diuretic which is clinically equivalent to Diuride K, called Furox K, marketed by Leo Laboratories, is officially priced at £42 a thousand tablets. Hospitals can buy it for £13.80 a thousand.

Mr Brian Riley, the regional pharmaceutical officer for Mersey health authority, said yesterday: "The kind of discount offered by Napp is well below what is reasonable. It is unacceptable to have such a wide discrepancy between prices charged to hospitals and general practice. It might influence medical judgment."

Nature council move thwarts nuclear plan

By a Correspondent

The Central Electricity Generating Board has suffered a setback in its plans to build a nuclear power station at Winfrith Heath, Dorset.

The Nature Conservancy Council is about to designate the site as one of special scientific interest, giving it a degree of legal protection against development.

Fierce CEGB objections to the conservation measures have delayed the designation by 15 months.

The conservancy council's decision extends an existing Winfrith Heath designation by 200 acres to include the area where the board want to build a nuclear reactor.

It favours installing the controversial pressurised water reactor, but says that its choice will be subject to the outcome of the Sizewell B inquiry.

The Winfrith Heath site already has a prototype steam-generated nuclear reactor, owned by the Atomic Energy Authority, but the council fears that further development will destroy many rare plants and damage the habitat for several types of butterfly and reptiles — some of which are threatened with extinction.

A CEGB spokesman said the board had objected to the site because "The kind of special scientific interest because it would hamper development of the nuclear power programme. It had not tried to dispute the ecological value of the heath."

Mr Peter Nicholson, the council's south-west regional director, said formal notification of the heath's increased protection would be issued next month.

He went on: "We would have designated this site 15 months ago but for the CEGB's objection. The case even went over my head to the council's national directors to express their grave anxiety about our intentions. But the law requires us to notify this site, and that is what we are going to do."

Winfrith is one of five sites named by the board as suitable for nuclear power stations. The others are at Hinkley in Somerset; Dungeness, Kent; Truro in Wales; and Northumberland.

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Kerb-crawling bill back on road after filibustering MP relents

By Alan Travis

Reports of the death of Miss Janet Fookes's private members' bill to outlaw kerb crawling proved exaggerated yesterday when the Commons unexpectedly gave it a third reading.

Two Conservative MPs, Mr Matthew Parris and Mr Tony Blair, talked the bill out when it was last debated on May 10, leading Miss Fookes to accuse the two MPs of having killed it.

But the Commons raced through 101 amendments to the Local Government (Access to Information) Bill yesterday morning leaving plenty of debating time for the Fookes bill, which seeks to outlaw the soliciting of women for sexual purposes by men in cars.

Mr Parris, the Conservative MP for Dorset, came to a deal with Mr David Mellor, the Junior Home Office Minister. Mr Parris agreed not to attempt to talk out the bill again yesterday, as long as the Government ensured that his amendment to it was fully debated when it reached the Lords. The bill went through its remaining Commons stages in less than two hours.

The Minister said: "I am delighted at this turn of events. It is a demonstration of the life after death. Many of us were deeply troubled that this bill had its life terminated by what happened last week."

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Israelis urge talks with PLO

From Ian Black in Jerusalem

A GROUP of Labour MPs, including the influential secretary of the party, is urging the Government to negotiate with any Palestinians, including members of the PLO, who are prepared to recognise Israel.

The MPs, led by Mr Uzi Baram, the Labour Party secretary, plan to tell Mr Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, that without such a commitment from Jerusalem it will be hard to advance the Middle East peace process.

The parliamentary initiative comes against a background of efforts by the US to find a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that will negotiate first with the US and possibly later with Israel.

Israel's position which was conveyed to the US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, in talks here last week, is that it will meet such a delegation only if it does not include "persons belonging to an organisation which is committed to the Palestinian covenant."

Such a definition appeared to rule out members of the Palestine National Council, the PLO's "parliament."

The Labour idea, which will put pressure on Mr Peres from the leftwing of his party, is intended to widen the criteria for Palestinians with whom Israel is prepared to negotiate. A group of Labour MPs recently met a PLO delegation in Europe.

Sheikh's link to Beirut bomb still a mystery

From David Ottaway in Washington

THE Sheikh who was the target of a car bomb attack by a group with ties to the CIA last March has repeatedly been accused of plotting the bombing of the US marine headquarters in Beirut in October, 1983.

But there has never been any conclusive proof that he participated in planning and executing the terrorist operation.

Some reports suggest that he may have provided the religious justification for the action, even the final blessings to the suicide driver of the truck laden with explosives that ran into the marine compound. But even these reports are disputed among Middle East intelligence analysts.

Much of the information originally implicating the Sheikh in that bombing came from Christian-run intelligence services that had their own reasons for wanting to implicate and kill him.

However, publicity in America about his alleged role in the attack on US marines, which left 241 American servicemen dead, has helped to transform Sheikh Fadiallah from a little-known cleric in a southern suburb of Beirut into an important spiritual leader of Shi'ite Muslims whose books are now read across the Arab world.

Had the March murder attempt succeeded, there is little doubt it would have caused a backlash, with Shi'ite militants everywhere seeking to take revenge against US targets in Lebanon and other Arab countries.

The whole episode raises

Obscure cleric gains in status after massacre

questions not only about the use of foreign nationals to carry out anti-terrorist activities, but also about the sources the US relies on for information about terrorist groups, particularly in Lebanon.

The influential Sheikh was asked recently to become an intermediary in helping the US gain the release of five kidnapped Americans being held in Lebanon by an unknown Shi'ite militant group, which is seeking the release of 17 Shi'ite extremists from prison in Kuwait in exchange for the Americans.

Almost from the day of the October, 1983, bombing, the US and other Western embassies in Beirut began receiving reports that the militant Shi'ite group, Hezbollah (the party of God) and its alleged leader, Sheikh Fadiallah, were behind the operation.

"Washington wanted a name, and he started showing up in reports," a US diplomat, formerly stationed in Beirut, said. "There was the devil."

The original sources for all these accusations, however, were the Lebanese army's Christian-run intelligence branch and the rightwing Christian Lebanese Forces militia's own intelligence service. The two have had close ties for years and regularly exchange information.

For the Christian militia and its allies in the army in

telligence, Sheikh Fadiallah was long the symbol of a burgeoning, militant Shi'ism that sought the creation of an Islamic republic in Lebanon which the Christians saw as a threat to the existence of the Christian population in the country.

Even before the bombing of the marine headquarters, these Christian-led intelligence agencies had pointed to the Sheikh as a leading pro-Iranian Shi'ite cleric stirring up his community against the Christians.

The Sheikh has openly spoken out against both suicide bombings and hijackings, which he called "un-Islamic," and several times urged the Shi'ites living in the southern Beirut suburbs not to seek revenge on Westerners.

The Italian contingent of the Western peace-keeping force stationed in Beirut successfully used his offices to avoid any friction developing with its soldiers stationed, like the American ones, just outside the Shi'ite suburbs.

Lebanese sources said Sheikh Fadiallah now ranks among the highest religious authorities in the country, Shi'ism, an offshoot of the main Sunni school of Islam.

This is in sharp contrast to his reputation before the bombing of the marine barracks in October, 1983. Then, the Sheikh was hardly known outside his own suburban quarters in the southern Beirut suburb of Bir Abed—Los Angeles Times.

Bomb aftermath: Nearly two years have passed since a bomb ripped through the US marine base in Beirut but analysts still dispute the operation's mastermind.



Durban four on trial for life

From Patrick Laurence in Johannesburg

South Africa's biggest political trial since the treason trial of 1963-64 starts on Monday, with the first appearance in the Natal Supreme Court of 16 members of the United Democratic Front.

The 16 accused face a main charge of treason, and charges of terrorism and furthering the aims of the outlawed African National Congress and of communist offences, as well as terrorism.

Four of the accused sought refuge last September in the British consulate in Durban, before leaving after the British Government refused to intercede on their behalf with the South African authorities.

The 16 include two presidents of the UDF, Mr Archie Gumede, who is the son of a former ANC president, and Mrs Albertina Sisulu, the wife of a Robben Island prisoner, Mr Walter Sisulu.

The core of the indictment is that all 16 associated themselves with, and supported, the aims of a "revolutionary Alliance" formed by the ANC and its allies, the Communist Party and the Congress of Trade Unions. The ultimate object of the Revolutionary Alliance, according to the state, is the "armed seizure" of power.

While being committed to the use of violence to achieve its ends, the Revolutionary Alliance endorsed the use of "non-violent forms of political struggle" in order to create a climate favourable to revolution, the indictment says.

Approved non-violent means include non-cooperation, strikes, boycotts, demonstrations, mobilisation and politicalisation of the masses, agitation for the release of political prisoners and the return of exiles, and popularisation of alliance leaders and of the Freedom Charter.

The Freedom Charter is defined in the indictment as a policy document drawn up 30 years ago by the then still lawful ANC and its partners, in what was known as the Congress Alliance, which the state presents as a precursor to the Revolutionary Alliance.

"The Freedom Charter is still regarded by the Revolutionary Alliance as its political programme and policy document," the indictment says.

The accused are alleged to have sought to advance the objectives of the Revolutionary Alliance through the convening of political rallies, the making of speeches at rallies and meetings, and the distribution of documents and publications.

A legal observer commented on the speeches yesterday: "Although expressed in strident terms—which is not unusual for South Africa—the contents are not all that different from many public speeches. But what could take them into the realm of treason is the purpose and intent with which they were made."

The question, as he put it, is whether the state can establish a nexus between the speeches, some of which are pre-1960, the formation of the UDF, and the calculated furthering of the aims of the Revolutionary Alliance.

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Confidence in Defence Department 'eroded'

Weinberger 'finds' \$4bn and arouses fury of the Senate

From Michael White in Washington

The embattled Pentagon has brought fresh congressional indignation with the admission by the Defence Secretary, Mr Caspar Weinberger, that he had just found \$4 billion of unspent cash in his department's accounts, which could be used to help pay the bills in 1986.

Senators who had laboured long hours to prune the budget without undermining the country's defence needs were furious. Mr Alan Dixon, a Democrat from Illinois, was so angry that he took to the Senate floor bellowing so loudly that he could be heard outside, shouting: "Congress, as the people's representative, has a right to accurate information. It's not a game."

Republicans wrote to President Reagan protesting that their confidence in the department had been further eroded by the incident, coming after months of revelations about corruption and abuse by Pentagon officials.

Mr Weinberger's admission to the Senate Armed Services Committee on Tuesday night may prove to be a tactical blunder of some importance, as the Administration's trillion

dollar budget moves into a critical phase. Congress has fought to protect domestic spending programmes, notably pensions, and to share the burden of the largest \$50 billion worth of cuts with the military.

On Thursday night the Democrat-controlled House Budget Committee stepped up the pressure by voting on a budget formula which would give pensioners their full inflation-proofing increase for 1986, while denying the Pentagon even that.

Its funds would remain at the 1985 level, and domestic spending programmes would be cut by about a third less than the Republican-dominated Senate agreed to. So sensitive is the situation that President Reagan has postponed for a week his plan to unveil tax reform proposals which would reduce tax levels and popular tax deductions.

The President has been forced to retreat from his original 1986 budget demand of inflation-plus-6 per cent for the Pentagon, first to 3 per cent real growth and now to a so-called inflation-proofed freeze. The earlier budget was sufficiently padded to allow for this contingency. He has since conceded.

The public suspicion that it is indeed "a game" has been heightened by a combination of factors.

Scandals among the contractors, which led to General Electric being fined \$1 million in court this week after hastily changing its plea to guilty when prosecutors turned up a former employee willing to testify to its practices, have been highlighted by congressional audit and the Pentagon's belated determination to show it is guarding the taxpayer's dollars. Almost half the top 100 companies are now under investigation.

The defence build-up by the Administration has been such that, even with a freeze, Pentagon spending would continue to grow because of the velocity already behind it. The generals simply cannot spend what they have fast enough in any given year, even though weapons systems are consistently overshot.

The MX missile is now reported to be going to cost twice earlier estimates. The air force is consistently over budget. The Navy's new aircraft carrier, the USS Zumwalt, is now reported to be going to cost twice earlier estimates. The air force is consistently over budget. The Navy's new aircraft carrier, the USS Zumwalt, is now reported to be going to cost twice earlier estimates.

Denmark counts the cost of credit spree

Time running out as PM is accused of dividing the country

From Simon Tisdall in Copenhagen

WHEN THE Danish Prime Minister, Mr Poul Schlüter, rose to address a Liberation Day rally in Copenhagen on May 4, he was greeted by jeers, rotten eggs and stink bombs. It was most people's agreed, a most shocking thing.

But the bombardment was more than just an ill-considered attack against an unpopular politician. It symbolised the deepening divisions within a society undergoing, by its own standards, an economic revolution, a society knee-deep in state debt, a society skilled in conciliation and compromise, but now increasingly engaged in confrontation.

Mr Schlüter retreated from the Rådhuspladsen with angry dignity. His four-party coalition, in office since September, 1982, as yet shows no sign of retreating from its central object to force Denmark to live within its means.

Denmark has been on a prolonged credit spree. A caring society has been sustained with other people's money. Since 1973, the foreign debt has grown from 10.5 per cent of national product to 38 per cent last year, or \$18 billion — "extraordinarily high in European context," in the words of one economist. Up to 4 per cent of Denmark's total income is spent each year servicing this debt.

The country's balance of payments deficit has also risen steadily since 1973, to about \$1.25 billion in 1984, while state and local government borrowing is also in the red.

Mr Schlüter, Denmark's first Conservative Prime Minister since 1901, has decided that this cannot go on.

The resulting cuts in social services, the effective reduction of unemployment pay, and the ending of price-wage indexation have sent shock waves through the country. Last month, the imposition of a legally-binding national 2 per cent wage ceiling for 1985 was the culmination of weeks of protests and strikes, the scale and bitterness of which were unprecedented.

In the period 1973-82, Danish hourly-paid workers received annual wage increases of up to 19 per cent, and never less than 9 per cent. To



Divided Danes: Demonstrations and unrest have resulted from government attempts to tighten the belt.

be forced now to take a wage cut (inflation is about 5 per cent) was almost as staggering as the most un-Danish inexperience of the Government.

The trade unions are, not surprisingly, furious. "They are dividing society," said one official at LO, Denmark's 1.3 million member equivalent of the TUC. "It is the weakest group who pay the bill for their policies." The largest union, the SLD, has announced a \$13 million propaganda campaign against the Government.

Harald Høirup of the SLD forecasts increasing unrest and illegal strikes. "Society has changed under Schlüter," Mr Høirup said. "It has become more selfish. The welfare state is in danger while the well-off have got richer. People did not expect these policies and the Government does not have a mandate for them."

The anger extends beyond the union movement. According to Politiken, a newspaper, Mr Schlüter has "split the country": his policies, the paper claimed recently,

were radicalising the middle class. The shortage of old people's homes in Copenhagen, the closure of hospital departments (notably, a cancer unit at Finsen), the curtailment of sickness benefits, and the plight of the "lonely mothers" forced to stay at home for lack of child day-care facilities are laid at the Government's door.

The Social Democrats, still the largest party, were in power for most of the years in which the debt accumulated. In 1982 they simply resigned, without an election, conscious perhaps that the fudging and the kroner devaluations had to stop. The question now is whether Mr Schlüter is making things better or worse.

According to the Danish Industries Federation and the Economic Advisory Council, the prospects are good. Last year, the Danish economy grew faster than any other in Europe. Manufacturing investment rose by over 25 per cent and output was up 1 per cent. Exports increased as did the number of new jobs in the private sector. These

trends are forecast to continue this year and next, in modified form.

The central problem is still the budget deficit. First quarter figures showed a further rise. According to Professor Niels Thygesen of the advisory council: "The Government always knew it was taking a calculated risk in trying to improve the prospects for the debt while sustaining growth. The policy is now in danger."

For Mr Schlüter, time is beginning to run out. Welfare and benefits spending still accounts for about 30 per cent of the budget, but further cuts or higher taxes appear politically unacceptable. A recent opinion poll showed clearly the cost in votes of his modern-day "Dart for Denmark."

If Denmark's credit spree cannot be halted, the Prime Minister will once again find himself with egg on his face. And even if the Danes are finallyajoined into living within their means, a balanced budget may be achieved only at the price of an off-balanced and seriously divided society.

Blaize visits Britain to seek further development aid

By Greg Chamberlain

Grenada's Prime Minister, Mr Herbert Blaize, arrives in Britain today for his first trip outside the Caribbean since he took office last December.

Apart from meeting the Queen, who will visit the island in October just after the last US and Caribbean troops have withdrawn, Mr Blaize is seeking more British aid to ensure that Grenada stays firmly in the Western camp after six years of turmoil.

He is sceptical that President Reagan will keep all the promises of help made after the US invasion in 1983 and he wants Britain, as the old colonial power, to play a bigger role. British aid since the island's "leftwing" regime was swept away by the invasion has amounted to police training and \$8.75 million in development loans.

The Foreign Minister, Mr Ben Jones, said recently that he thought \$500 million would be "just right" for aid from the US alone over the next five years. So far, US promises have totalled \$57 million.

Although described by the US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, as "a lovely piece of real estate" and de-

spite new land and tax laws to encourage foreign investors, Grenada is only slowly drawing new US capital—largely because of the island's poor infrastructure. Despite increasing tourism, Grenada's exports—bananas, nutmeg, and cocoa—continue to fall.

The US is more concerned about security. The departing troops will leave behind a strong presence with a large embassy and a team of intelligence officials to see that no new subversion threatens US interests in the eastern Caribbean's tiny islands.

Many Grenadians want the US troops to stay. The former prime minister, Sir Eric Gairy, has organised a petition, signed by 2,000, he claims, by a quarter of the islanders, asking President Reagan not to pull them out. The Government wants them to stay too.

"We will come back at once if necessary," Rear Admiral Ralph Hedge, the US commander in the Caribbean, has said. He claims, by a "promised last month."

In September, Grenada's new anti-subversion Special Services Unit will join other such US units trained and equipped by George Shultz, as "a lovely piece of real estate" and de-

European fighter agreement

From George Armstrong in Rome

The five defence ministers in the consortium which is to build the new European fighter aircraft agreed yesterday on the plane's weight and engine power.

According to one unconfirmed report, the former would be between 9.5 and 9.7 metric tonnes and the latter 88 kilo-Newtons. It was also agreed that in the experimental phase, the engines used would be British, American, and French.

The Tornado's successor, which will be Europe's largest joint aerodynamic undertaking, is to be discussed by the same five countries — Italy, France, West Germany, Spain, and Britain — at a meeting in London on June 17.

The Rome meeting, which lasted nine hours and did not end until 3am yesterday morning, also agreed to produce "united indications" of what the five countries want, to allow their industries to submit proposals and bids.

The fact that the weight of the aircraft was agreed upon suggests that France's proposal for a fighter aircraft did not prevail.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pit blast death toll rises to 49

A GAS explosion killed at least 49 men and more than 200 others were trapped underground yesterday in a coal mine in northern Japan.

Another 20 men were injured in the blast at the Mitsubishi Mining Company's Kibuki colliery near Yokohama. The disaster was the third at a Japanese coal mine in the past 16 months, and the second in three weeks. — AP.

Passengers see girl raped

Paris: A 17-year-old girl was raped yesterday on a train on her way to school while seven people looked on. Two men held her down while the third raped her as the train went through a tunnel.

"Two or three of the seven passengers present, who did nothing during the (crime), approached me after and said 'are you OK?'. I told them I was alright," the teenager said. A doctor later confirmed that she had had sexual relations. — AP.

Ceasefire offer

PRESIDENT Hussein of Iraq said yesterday that Iraq would observe a ceasefire throughout the month of Ramadan, if Iran did the same. — Reuters.

Protest halted

SECURITY police detained about 20 people trying to stage a "peace" demonstration in central Moscow, one of the organisers said yesterday. Mr Yuri Medvedkov, a member of a small unofficial anti-nuclear group, said the would-be demonstrators were arrested as they tried to make their way to a site across the Moscow river from the Kremlin. — AP.

Courts abolished

SUDAN'S ruling military council yesterday formally abolished special criminal courts set up under the former president, Jaafar Numeiri, to apply Islamic punishments. Egypt's state-run news agency Mena said. In two years, the courts sentenced scores of drinkers to be flogged and ordered the hands of more than 300 thieves to be amputated. — AP.

Lonely yurts

CHINA plans to help 100,000 Tibetan and Mongol herdsmen to swap their yak-hair yurts for modern tents, the New China News Agency said yesterday. Unlike the traditional circular yurt homes, the tents are said to be warmer, brighter, more durable, sanitary, and easily moved. — Reuters.

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Vienna sets the scene for a meeting of myth and reality

From Hella Pick in Vienna

Busy foreign ministers here this week lacked time to visit a remarkable exhibition contrasting Vienna's turn of the century cultural life with the social protest and anti-Semitism of that time. The exhibition is called, Dream and Reality.

It is impossible not to recall Senator William Fulbright's similar warning to distinguish between "myth and reality" when considering East-West relations during this week's diplomacy.

Mr Gromyko, has said almost nothing in public, except, as he left yesterday, that his stay in Vienna had been useful.

Sir Geoffrey Howe was also non-committal and emphasised once again that "there is a long haul ahead."

Mr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, typically optimistic, is encouraged by the certainty that the American Secretary of State and the Soviet Foreign Minister will meet again at the end of July in Helsinki during the tenth anniversary of the Helsinki Declaration.

Italy's Foreign Minister, Mr Giulio Andreotti, said that Mr Gromyko in talks with him, conceded for the first time that the Soviet Union is engaged in space weapons

research. Mr Gromyko, however, apparently, insisted in three hours of their six-hour meeting were devoted to inter-pretive weapons development, based on existing technology, and is not to be compared with Mr Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative.

The Austrian Chancellor, Mr Fred Sinowatz, who saw all the visiting foreign ministers separately, arrived at a pessimistic conclusion on East-West relations. His predecessor, Dr Bruno Kreisky, though, was encouraged by the surprisingly good atmosphere between Mr Gromyko and Mr Shultz during a luncheon given by the Austrian President when the Soviet Foreign Minister thawed enough to use his excellent English.

Dr Kreisky is convinced that Soviet foreign policy is marking time and that much depends on whether Mr Gromyko continues in charge of foreign policy.

The Americans, who were unusually taciturn in Vienna, now assert that Mr Gorbachev is too busy in domestic matters to concentrate on foreign policy, let alone to find a compromise on arms control, or a summit.

It is easy to confuse myth with reality. The importance of the dur-

ation of the Shultz-Gromyko meeting has been exaggerated. Three hours of their six-hour meeting were devoted to interpretive weapons development, based on existing technology, and is not to be compared with Mr Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative.

Given the range of issues that divide the superpowers, however, it is clear that there was no time to do more than reiterate known positions.

Second, there was the popular Western assertion, that talk in itself is useful, even if involving little more than stone-walling. Sir Geoffrey is a great exponent of this view.

Even though diplomatic exchanges are obviously better than walls of ice, no meeting in Vienna has been able to overcome the American-Soviet impasse over space weapons, or show how the superpowers might reduce the deep distrust which magnifies all their differences.

Lastly there is the preoccupation with a summit, which has dominated the private and public speculation about the Shultz-Gromyko talks. The assumption is that a meeting of the leaders would transform the East-West climate overnight.

Of course both sides recognise the inherent danger that such a meeting could also develop into a disastrous failure.

Pope sails into smooth waters

From Derek Brown in Brussels

THE RUMBLING criticism of Dutch-speaking Catholics, which resurfaced during the Pope's first full day in Belgium yesterday, has done nothing to blur the contrast between last week's visit to the Netherlands, marked by apathy and occasional open hostility, and this week's tour of Belgium.

At Ypres, there was a particularly solemn moment when the Pope prayed in the shadow of the Menin Gate, inscribed with the names of more than 55,000 British and Empire soldiers with no known grave.

Later, in the restored market place of Ypres, the Pope appealed for "deep convictions and total commitment" to peace. "Peace is no longer a question that can be dealt with rhetorically, but merely using easy and unilateral slogans," he said.

He sidestepped the question of women priests when he visited the town of Bruges, where Catholic lay workers in the north Belgian port of Antwerp that the influence of women was essential to the fullness and harmony of church life. But "it is understandable that women suffer from certain forms of paternalism and discrimination."

The Pope was replying to a direct, if highly respectful request for an urgent rethink on the role of women in the church from Mr Aelred Thijss, the president of the Inter-Diocesan Pastoral Council and spokesman for the Flemish laity.

Mr Thijss followed his plea for a greater role for women with a call for the church to consider married priests. These were the prime themes of dissident liberal Catholics during the Pope's visit to the Netherlands earlier this week. Yesterday, in Dutch-speaking Flanders, he showed no sign of relaxing his firm stand on both issues.



Black clergymen hold a prayer vigil before the gutted homes of Ossage Street

Meese approves firebombing

From Michael White in Washington

THE Philadelphia firebombing in which 11 people died and 53 homes were destroyed by police action against a radical commune was "a good example" of law enforcement, the Reagan Administration's senior legal officer said yesterday.

Mr Edwin Meese, the former White House aide whose appointment to the post of attorney-general was blocked by financial controversy for a year, told a conference of police officers in his native California that Philadelphia's mayor, Mr Wilson Goode, had handled the police attack on Monday night in "a very rational, very reasonable way." He emphasised that the situation was created "by criminals, not the police."

Mr Meese's remarks came after preliminary examination of 10 of the 11

victims — four of them children — suggested that fire, not bullets, had killed them, and as Pennsylvania's two Republican senators walked through the devastated black middle class neighbourhood promising to seek \$1 million worth of federal help.

"It was a sad, terrifying situation. Nobody planned this disaster," commented Senator John Heinz.

Sympathy from Mr Meese, one of President Reagan's closest lieutenants for 20 years, may not be what Mayor Goode, a black Democrat, needs most as he fights for his own political life. With lawsuits seeking \$10 million in damages filed by some of the 270 homeless, and the knives out for his resignation, the mayor has pledged himself to raise \$6 million from local, federal, and private sources, to rebuild the neighbourhood by Christmas

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The British dragon boat in 1984 — picture by Christopher Dodd

The poet, the dragon and the dumpling

One of the great international boat festivals is held in Hong Kong at the end of June. Christopher Dodd was there for the last one

THE WORLD'S great anchorages are always better than expectations. Hong Kong from the Star Ferry which links the island to Kowloon is magical. Hong Kong spilling down from the heights of the peak is magical, from glimpses in the city streets is magical. There is never a moment of stillness from the armada of sampans and junks, the US navy's ships, or the cruise liners.

If you're lucky with the weather, the harbour is best seen from the top of the Peak, to which a train takes you from sea level 1,305 feet up in a matter of minutes. The tram is a small jewel in the treasury of the colony's public transport. All the major attractions are easily accessible — the country walks over the Peak, with its views of mansions and the shipping roads leading to the South China Sea, the New Territories, which give a delicious taste of the rich countryside, climbing and dipping towards the border with China, served by the Hong Kong section of the Kowloon to Canton railway, and the islands served by a network of ferries.

These are the major day trip attractions, together with the easily accessible tours to the People's Republic. Heat and humidity are the principal enemies of the visitor unused to such things, but riding the trams, buses, taxis, and the moving refrigerator of the new Mass Transit Railway gives a feel of the place almost as good as walking the streets.

The streets bustle and the people go about their business purposefully, but there are many unexpected diversions for the moocher. Like herbalists' shops, stores specialising in snake delicacies — for good health during the winter months — the shops stocked with paper constructions which serve as burnt offerings at funerals, and street scribes whose job it is to write and interpret letters for those who can't.

And Hong Kong is well stocked with festivals, such as the birthday of Tin Hau, the fishermen's goddess, for which fishing craft are decorated and lion dances and traditional rites are celebrated at Tuen Ng Bay. One which has taken on an additional lease of life in recent years is the Tuen Ng or dragon boat festival.

It has been a major occasion for the Chinese since the 4th century BC to celebrate the death of a national hero, the poet and patriot Chu Yuen, who drowned himself in protest against government corruption. Boat people threw dumplings into the sea to honour the poet's spirit and beat the water with paddles to divert the attentions of fish from the drowning hero.

It falls on the fifth day of the fifth moon of the Chinese calendar and is one of the three days in the lunar year when all debts must be settled. It also pays homage to ancestors and appeases the dragon which controls the waters to ensure adequate rain to ripen crops. Thus the boats used today carry dragons' heads and tails, and the races between the crews from many areas of China are supposed to be good-natured affairs. They are manned by up to 80 paddlers and carry a steersman in the dragon's tail and a drummer to beat out the stroke.

The scope of the festival has been broadened in recent years by the introduction of international races. Smaller boats with up to 20 paddlers, who sit two abreast, are raced eight abreast, and they provide a diverting spectacle along the shoreline near the Star Ferry terminal in Kowloon.

Last year, Cathay Pacific sponsored a crew made up from rowing clubs in the North-east of England who practised on the Tyne and the Wear in a specially imported boat before going to Hong Kong, and for the first time three years of participation by Britons, reached the final. This year West Midlands rowers represent Britain on June 30.

The great interest which

Pair of narrowboats, roped together for easier working, entering one of Hutton's 21 locks

David Bolton on the modern role of the canal narrowboat

If you're fond of a squeeze

THERE IS a point on the Grand Union Canal, just north of Weedon in Northamptonshire, where three centuries of transport development converge and run parallel for about one mile. Anyone steering a traditional style narrowboat along this stretch, at a maximum 4 mph, has some 25 minutes of ear-splitting cacophony and eye-dazzling confusion to reflect on the changes since the canal was built in the late 18th century. Through a thin veil of trees on the right, six streams of vehicles hurtle frenetically along the M1, while from the left, shrieking horns herald 90 mph inter-city express, slicing through the countryside.

Bank Holiday Waterway Festival

ON Bank Holiday weekend, May 22-23, the Inland Waterways Association will be mounting a festival at Ellmers Port, showing off a working museum, with 48 canal boats, and all kinds of tools, documents, painting and also modern handpainted canalware for sale. The entertainment is headed up by a rally of many sorts of boat, trade stalls for chandlery, craftsmen and builders, with jazz and brass bands, Morris and Polish dancers, Chinese and Daystar theatre and the Millers canal boat theatre mentioned in David Bolton's article. Festival car park is at Junction 7 on the M53, with coach service to the site. Alternatively, buses run from Chester and The Wirral. Further information: The IWA, 100 Upper Richmond Road, London SW15 2ST. Tel. 01-739 4053/6.

sightseers, descend like pigeons on prominent popular spots, usually at a canal-side pub. As the cameras flash you experience briefly the exposure of being the star of the moment.

The canals were built for carrying heavy cargoes. Those days are long past for most of our waterways. Today, a new purpose and life has arrived in giving many people a leisure pursuit which takes them right away from daily pressures. The trouble is that some first time holidaymakers do not understand this. After studying a map, they commit themselves to a route which is too ambitious — doing the Avon or Warwickshire ring in one week, for instance. This means that they may be on the move for eight or ten hours a day, with a desperate attempt to reach a target pub for overnight mooring.

THE following companies offer boating holidays on waterways throughout the UK.

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Blakes Holidays. Wrexham, North Wales. Tel. 09053 3226.
Blue Line Cruisers. Horning, Norfolk. Tel. 0692 630128.
Boat Enquiries Ltd. 43 Botley Road, Oxford OX2 0PT. Tel. 0865 727288.
British Waterways Board. River Cruiser Booking Office, Chester Road, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 9LB. Tel. 0270 625122.
Horseshoe Holidays. Sunway House, Loughborough, Leics. Tel. 0502 62101.
Inland Cruising Co. Ltd. 59 High Street, Brampton, Devon. Tel. 0783 890465.
Richardsons New Horizons. The Stables, Stalham, Norfolk NR12 9BX. Tel. 0692 81522.
Riverhome Cruisers. 8 Market Passage, Cambridge CB2 3QR. Tel. 0223 311113.
Viking Afloat. Sandrocks, Rookley Lane, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 3QS. Tel. 0444 458731.

use in the last 20 years, ranging from 20 to 70 feet in length, and six feet ten inches in beam (many English locks are no wider).

These have steel hulls. The cabin superstructure may be steel or wood, and there is a keen debate among owners on the comparative merits. The traditional brightly painted exterior, decorated with roses and castles, is widely maintained.

Many boats are for hire by the week, though in the low season a weekend rental is possible. The biggest boats can accommodate up to 10 or 12 people, and at peak capacity conditions must be similar to the old boatman's stern cabin.

It is a sociable and public life on a boat. Working through a flight of locks with another boat, you can get to know people better than at many parties. Like the West Country farmer who shared with me Hutton's 21 locks — he was looking forward to reaching the heart of Birmingham as a change from the open fields.

Gongoozlers can be another matter. They, the weekend

The long holds of the narrowboats are neatly covered by green tarpaulins, pitched in traditional style over the centre gang plank like a tent. No longer are they carrying loads of coal, bricks or clay. Today they are more likely to be packed with 20 teenagers on a school or club cruise. They have become camping boats.

There are still a few boats carrying coal, mainly to supply people living on the waterways. Some have been converted to other purposes, such as shops selling replicas of decorated Bucky cans. One pair of 48-year-old boats was transformed into the Millers Theatre which for the past 13 years has travelled the country, giving nightly performances of original dramas about waterways history. In spite of the unexpected withdrawal of their Arts Council grant, they are still in action this year.

There are also rare examples of wooden-hull boats, lovingly and exhaustively maintained by dedicated owners. Most of the boats, however, have been built specifically for leisure

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WEEK-END PEOPLE

The Elle and damp nation road to the newstands

SMART money's new hot-house is international franchising. Up from burgers and pizzas, now it's pop culture: magazines, fashion and sport. Global culture pusher Rupert Murdoch brings out British Elle in October, after a couple of tasters in the Sunday Times. The She of Elle is Joyce Hopkirk, who's giving up the paper's Look pages to be editorial director of the new transplant.

Hopkirk has worked media miracles before. A dozen years ago, she, a bubbly blond, she ran the first international edition of Cosmopolitan — in Britain — making its US editor, Helen Gurley Brown, a global star and its publisher quite a few dollars. Rupert Murdoch has achieved both already. But Hopkirk wants to make him an even happier man.

Now a bubbling 46, in a chic creation from Next — the clothing store closest to the Sunday Times office — she is trying to distill the essence of Elle for a British readership in a market saturated with magazines for women. So what's so special about Elle, which is really like a stylish version of Woman's Own, and is not read by the trendy young brachés, who go for Prima, Biba or 7 Jours Madame?

Elle has got strong visual appeal, says a game Hopkirk running a practised hand over a glossy fashion page as though it were Thai silk. "I like to think in terms of slogans. You know — the French have told us how to make love, how to cook, and now they'll teach us how to dress."

It would have been childish to point out that Elle doesn't know it all about love-making. Of 12 possible locations (train, lift, water etc) more than 90 per cent of respondents said "jamais" in a survey included in the Elle sample issue which the ST distributed last week.

"Cross Channel chic," bubbled Hopkirk obligingly.

What else? "Well, their cookery cards are renowned." The fashion goes without saying, but it's got to be accessible. "We're not aiming at Vogue readers. The hat on the Vogue cover this month costs £400. I earn quite a lot of money, but I can't afford that." The astrology is good, too, so that will be included. There's no advice column to take. Anyway, Hopkirk doesn't like the genre, except for Irma Kurtz.

The British Elle team is confident they'll be no cultural rejection of the implant. They're aiming mostly at women between 15 and 35 and already they're testing the product on little groups of them in places like Farnham. Very Cosmo, Farnham: no hostile reaction to a French name. Maybe it's

one of the little bits of the Home Counties which is waiting to be doused with a French mystique.

For there is little mystery about the appearance of Elle in Britain. It seems that Murdoch's main interest with the French publishers, Hachette, was in acquiring the US rights. The UK rights are a subsidiary part of the deal. Still, it's giving the backs on Gray's Inn Road a lot of fun as they find yet another lifestyle to imitate.

There have been visits to the Elle office in Neuilly, near Paris to discover the Je ne sais quoi of the mag. The elegance of the white office furniture was much admired, though the town itself did not please. An ST writer, describing the place to a gapping colleague began "My dear, imagine Pinner."

GAME: Joyce Hopkirk. Picture by Gary Weaser



Green and wear it

DESIGNER Katherine Hamnett who wore an anti-nuclear T-shirt to a Downing Street reception is bringing fashion and politics together in a magazine aimed at Yuppiees — young, upwardly mobile professionals; and Guppies — the same species in green, with peace and ecology on its conscience.

Headstrong Hamnett admits she's playing a hunch in launching Tomorrow to reflect her own fusion of fashion and protest politics. She's art and fashion editor — though she won't feature her own creations; she doesn't want advertisements in the first couple of issues — they can be corrupting. And she's prepared to invest up to £100,000, though that's min money out of the £7 million annual turnover of her company.

The Hamnett look — baggily laid back yet sexually combative — has brought international success. The magazine abroad will be sold through stockists of her clothes, and contain supplements in French and German for foreign distribution. About 15,000 of its 45,000 initial print run will go abroad. Brits will pick up the mag at £2 a time and find in the first number, clothes from Oxfam shops mingling with think pieces on conflicts from Nicaragua to Star Wars.

Hamnett reckons her mixture will work because the media generally underestimates the intelligence of its readers. "I find the attitude of fashion magazines very condescending. I can read most of them in 25 seconds, politics now is very exciting. I want to wake up everybody to what democracy means."

Even with the kids demanding attention, no nanny at breakfast time and a day at work, Hamnett is crowded with engagements. Hamnett flows obligingly, unstopably. "It was the T-shirts which showed me there was a market for the grumpy. I can't declare support for any party; her platform is always a reasonable person, a mother of two. She thinks the sacrifice of the Greenham women is marvelous, but insists that doesn't mean anything. Where's her anti-violence and all for writing to her MP. And you to yours."

With the confidence of Cheltenham Ladies College (she's an old girl) and the cut and thrust of the rag trade she says "I'm trying to put information in places where people haven't got it. People who buy the clothes run the planet, to an extent." Doorbell rings. Child cries. Hamnett. Samizdat: watch out for it later this month.

BIRTHDAYS

TODAY: Pope John Paul II, 65; Rodney Ackland, playwright, 77; Frank Capra, film director, 88; Chrissie, operatic bass, 66; Perry Como, ballad singer, 73; Graham Dilley, cricketer, 25; Dame Margot Fonteyn, prima ballerina, 66; Lord Hartwell, 66; Dolly and Sunday Telegraph, 74; Norman Haple, painter, 77; Miriam Margolyes, actress, 44; Fred Perry, prewar Wimbledon champion, 76; Rick Wakeman, rock keyboardist, 38; Norman St John Stevas, MP 56; TOMORROW: Mark Boxer and Mel Calman, cartoonists, both 54; Dr Edward de Bono, lateral thinker, 52; James Fox, actor, 46; David Jacobs, disc presenter, 59; Sir Edward Pakenham, vice-chancellor, Leeds, 59; Professor Max Perutz, molecular biologist, 71; Sandy Wilson, composer, 61; Victoria Wood, actress, comedienne, playwright, 33. MONDAY: the Rev Professor Owen Chadwick, OM, 69; Cher, and Joe Cocker, singer, 40 and 41; Professor Richard Cobb, 63; Lynn Davies, Olympic long jumper, 43; Keith Fletcher, cricketer, 41. TUESDAY: Raymond Burr, actor, 65; Dandy Nichols, actress, 78; Harold Robbins, author, 69; Forbes Robinson, operatic bass, 59; Dr Andrei Sakharov, dissident Soviet physicist, 64; Leo Sayer, singer, 37; Dr Stanley Wells, Shakespearean scholar, 55. WEDNESDAY: Charles Aznavour, singer, 63; Kenny Ball, trumpeter, bandleader, 55; Richard Benjamin, actor, 47; George Best, footballer, 39; Lord Olivier, actor, 78; Ewan MacColl, lyricist, 35. THURSDAY: Sir Hugh Casson, architect, president, Royal Academy, 75; Rosemary Clooney, actress, singer, 57; Joan Collins, actress, 53; Denis Compton, cricketer, 67; Nigel Davenport, actor, 57; and 73; Anatoli Karpov, chess player, 24. FRIDAY: James Anderson, chief constable, Greater Manchester, 53; Stanley Baxter, comedian, actor, 57; Bob Dylan, singer, 44; Sir William Halliday, former editor, The Times, and director-general, BBC, 84; Dame Joan Hickson, operatic soprano, 73; Siobhan McKenna, actress, director, 62; Archie Shepp, saxophonist, writer, 48; Mikhail Sholokhov, author 80.

People is written by John Cunningham

The hurdler who championed the cause of the also rans

WITH soccer fans in revolt, fox trunts sabotaged and cricket pitches to be ploughed, we need safer sports. Enter Tony Rudge with the World Games, which might revive British sporting culture with such foreign pastimes as Taekwondo, Karate, Faustball and Sambo Wrestling, which is not the national sport of Bongo, Bongo land, but of Soviet countries.

After an unspectacular try-out a few years ago in the

US, the World Games would have disappeared from the face of the earth if Rudge's company West, Nally, who're into managing and marketing sports events, hadn't stepped in. Thanks to their altruism, Britain is hosting a jamboree for the also-rans whose sports don't qualify for the Olympics. Everything is on a shoe-string. The only medals not to be plated are the bronze. Television coverage is on, yes, Channel Four. And any losses will be met

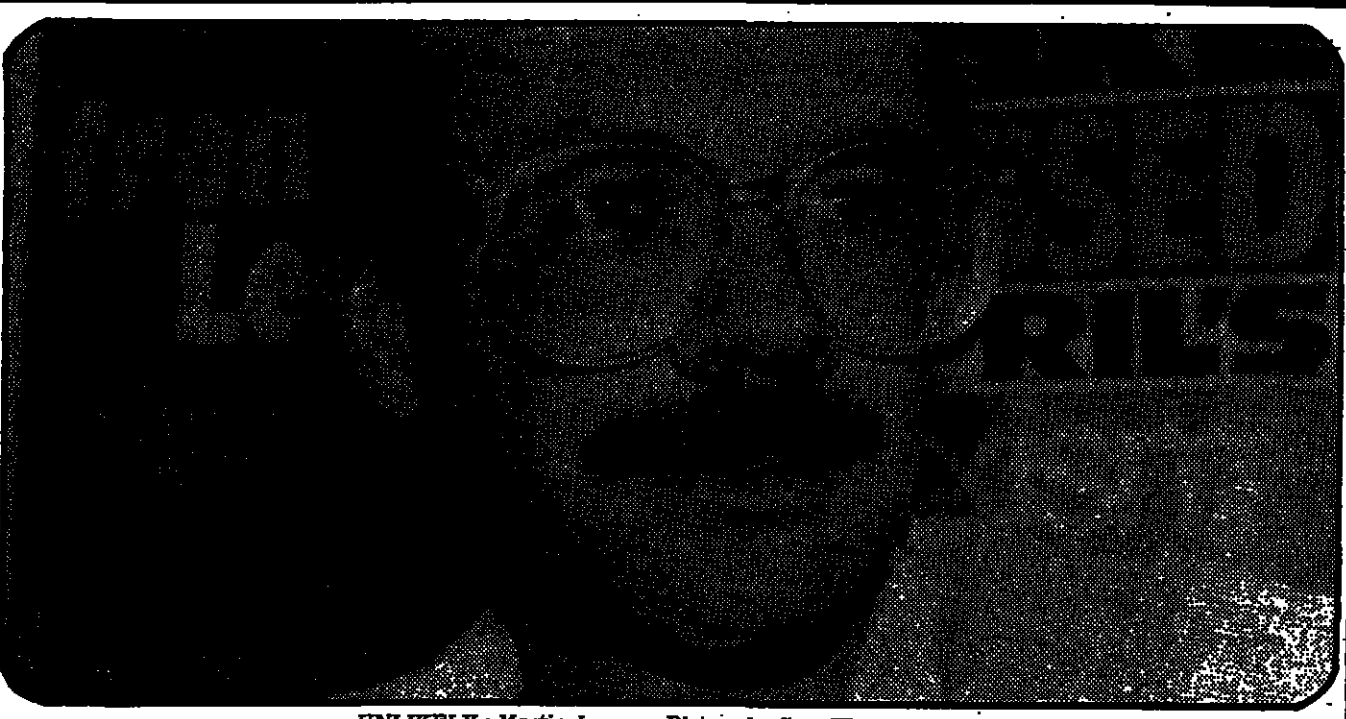
by an ancient, pushy Japanese millionaire who gets his name everywhere, except this column. If Rudge wasn't an excellent organiser, he'd be a champion hurdler: the games start on July 25, on a projected budget of £500,000, even though the Sports Council won't give any cash, the GLO are charging for the hire of the main venue, Crystal Palace, and there isn't a permanent secretariat to run the show, which will

take place in the year after every Olympics. Rudge is the unlikely director simply because there isn't anyone else to do the job. He's had to put up with the derision of the media and the withdrawal of such arcane activities as crossbow, artistic cycling and arena trials. He's been spared possible political conflicts, since competitors will be representing their sports, not their countries. However, there will be no South Afri-

can entrants — "I suppose it comes down to a ban." Still, there will be 2,000 competitors representing 23 sports. With the leisure industry growing, and the need for people to be educated in new sports, Rudge reckons there will be a big interest in US, Latin American and European activities not widely known here. Faustball might teach us something about sexual equality. It's played by mixed teams. And he even has hopes for popu-

larising petanque; though it was invented by an old French guy who couldn't walk very far and had to keep his feet together when he stopped. What if these marginal pursuits will look like an unintentionally funny version of It's a Knockout? Rudge is aware that presentation is everything. He's packaging the games with the box in mind. "We can't have people slumping around on the playing area. I'll have to tell

them that they're being seen by a world audience that they're not a local-style side. And we'll need some good commentators to explain the rules to the viewers." Rudge, an unsmiling defensive player, concedes that he'd have liked "a bit more razzmatazz." There aren't likely to be any scandals involving sex or illegal stimulants. There will be drug tests for just one sport: Speed Roller Skating. Appropriately.



UNLIKELY: Martin Jacques. Picture by Gary Weaser

Creeping up on a falling star

PALE pink slipover. White pants and trainers. Martin Jacques is the sort of subversive of the hand left. He infiltrates medical schools — and sneaks onto the squash courts for illicit games. He's put a trendy magazine on your coffee table, full of polemic and cruncky culture. Its circulation is rising so fast, the literary periodicals should watch out.

You'd never guess it is called Marxism Today. MT is the flagship of the Eurocommunists. It sells 13,500 copies, almost as many as the British daily sale of the Morning Star, around which clusters the opposing camp within the Communist Party. At their special congress this weekend, what we might loosely call the Euros and the

Stalinists will attempt to heal their ideological differences — no doubt by acrimony and expulsion. But the real battle for power in the British CP is on the news stands: While the Morning Star is falling, Jacques has tripled MT sales in the seven years he's been editor. "The concept behind I came was to have a theoretical journal — it once ran

a debate on the dialectics of nature," he said. Jacques has broken the Marxist mould and made MT outward rather than inward looking. "Marxism is a tradition of thought capable of addressing itself to new problems," he reckons. The magazine has made the running with its critique of Thatcherism and the crisis in the Labour Party.

Mr Gentleman's relish

DARK-GLASSED City banks are like gangsters wearing shades. Big Ben is scarred and scaffolded by a government which scarcely gives the time away. Downing Street is permanently behind crowd barriers. When David Gentlemen went there to sketch, he wasn't allowed to walk down. Even a helpful policeman had difficulty in pointing out Number 10.

Every inch his name, Gentleman's mild manner gives way to passion on the sketch pad. His book of London drawings (Weidenfeld and Nicholson, £14.95) swatches the capital in misty green and precise architectural detail. But there is political statement, too. He hates the sponsored litter bins, the British Telecom sign on the Post Office tower and the pensive Dickens look of Thames warehouses.

And Fortress London, behind the facade of Westminster and St James, Gentleman says "Neither the development of British nu-

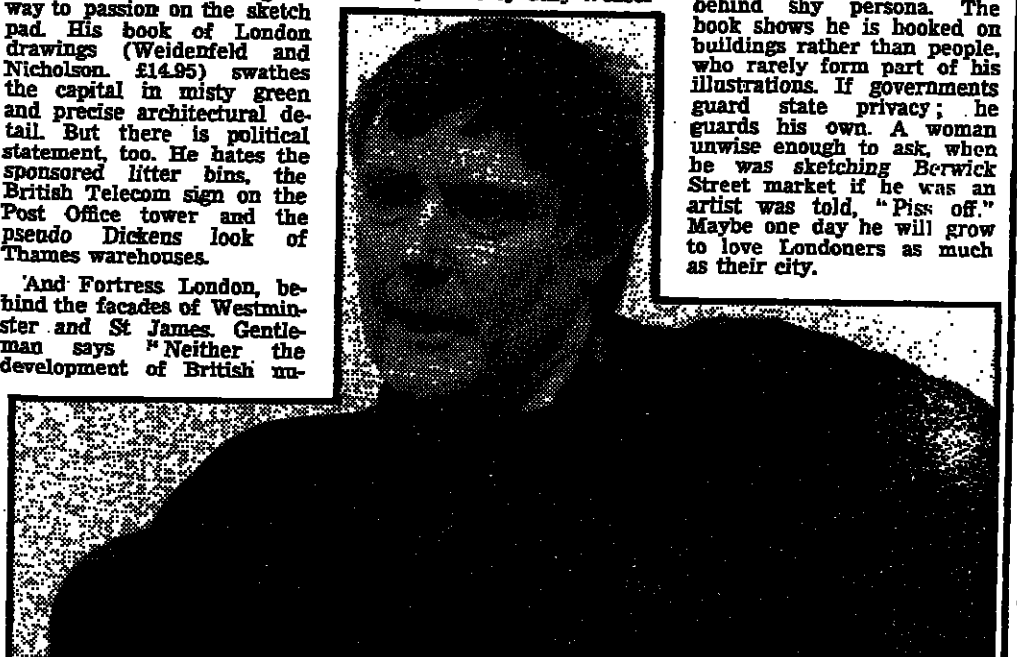
clear weapons, nor the true nature of the arrangements under which the USA built up its nuclear bases in this country were ever fully disclosed to Parliament or even to the Cabinet. Such secrecy compromises democracy."

From his leafy lair near Regent's Park, Gentleman says that when he began his drawings, he was horrified at

how much of London had changed since his student days. But his London is still a fun city. He likes "the bits that don't throw themselves at you — the back of Hampstead, Camden, the River." And the opening up of street life.

"Now, the more London changes, the more it seems to be desperately trying to provide what it supposes what people want." Strong views behind shy persona. The book shows he is hooked on buildings rather than people, who rarely form part of his illustrations. If governments guard state privacy, he guards his own. A woman unwise enough to ask when he was sketching Berwick Street market if he was an artist was told, "Piss off." Maybe one day he will grow to love Londoners as much as their city.

David Gentleman; picture by Gary Weaser



Carol, singer

SHE STREAMS in Bethnal Green — "the best public baths in London" — and sings at a little jazz club she owns there. Sometimes. Unnoticed, except for loyal fans, Carol Grimes has been bringing her songs and poems to pubs and pocket cabarets for 20 years, talking the things that happened to a fifties teenage drop-out. Frail as Pina, a voice like Janis Joplin, she represents a triumph for the very fringe of music: not big record deals; share the takings on the door with the band; traipse the land as a lonely old woman singer. "There were very few women in bands until five or six years ago. They were mostly singers so I didn't get to meet them. It was difficult, but it was fun." The offer to put together her own show — the songs and poems she grew wise through — and to present it for three weeks at a fringe theatre in West London is a modest micro-success. Madonna, part tumbler, she'll burn brightly at the Drill Hall Arts Centre in Chesham Street.



Carol Grimes. Picture by Frank Martin

THE GUARDIAN 1960

MAY 18: Stanleyville, May 17. Patrice Lumumba, leader of the Congolese National Movement, appeared to have assumed almost complete authority throughout the north-eastern area of the Belgian Congo today after demanding the immediate handover of power by the Belgian government.

The 34-year-old former post-office clerk today ended a triumphal 200-mile tour of the Stanleyville area, during which his supporters acclaimed him king, by sending a cable to King Baudouin demanding the immediate withdrawal of Belgian troops and reinforcements now being flown into the troubled Congo.

KARACHI, May 17. Pakistan has protested to the United Nations, making it clear that under no circumstances must its airfields be used as taking off points for flights which might be diverted into espionage runs over Russian territory.

giving a press conference designed to explain and justify his refusal to allow the Summit conference to start until he had received an impossible humiliating apology from Mr Eisenhower on the question of the over-flight of Soviet territory.

It was a frightening performance lasting nearly two and a half hours — frightening chiefly because of Mr Khrushchev's inability to deal with serious questions seriously — his mind seemed incapable of functioning on any but the propaganda level — and because of the extent to which he misjudges Western reactions and psychology.

It was frightening, too, because Mr Khrushchev revealed a mind which seemed dangerously obsessed, almost frantic. It was certainly no normal press conference; rather it had the atmosphere of a political rally.

MAY 20: Mr Hammarskjöld, the United Nations Secretary-General, urging the nations to use the full potentialities of the United Nations to meet the present crisis, today spoke of the "risk of war by accident."

He told a press conference... that he believed such a risk existed and added: "This is based on the assumption, which you know very well, that nobody in the

present world with open eyes goes to war."

"We have to do what we can to avoid the accident, the start, but I think that a more constructive work in the long run is one that aims at creating situations in which even occasional sparks do not lead to fire."

MAY 21: Sir John Barbirolli's threat to resign from the Hallé unless there is an inquiry into the whole question of subsidising orchestras in Britain has brought a long-standing grievance to a head. For all its fame and the immense value of its work, the Hallé is not treated generously either by the Arts Council or by Manchester Corporation. It has to work harder than any other orchestra of standing to keep going... The Hallé's musicians — with reason — feel this to be a hardship, and there has been an uncomfortable number of resignations from the orchestra recently.

Moreover, the Arts Council's allocation of its grants is puzzling: why should the Hallé last year have been given £12,000, and Liverpool, with a much bigger local authority grant than the Hallé, £20,000? The Arts Council must have reasons for this apparent discrimination, but they may not be good

reasons, and Sir John Barbirolli is justified in asking for an inquiry into the system of allocating grants.

MAY 24: Jerusalem (Israel side), May 23. Israeli security forces have found and detained Adolf Eichmann, a former deputy of Himmler and once head of the Jewish Extermination Department of the Gestapo. He is under arrest and will stand trial soon.

GREAT YARMOUTH, Monday (May 23). This afternoon Mr Gaitskell made what is probably the most impassioned public speech of his career. It was aimed ostensibly at the "unilateralists" in the country's third largest trade union (the National Union of General and Municipal Workers), but he clearly had in mind a wider audience — those Labour supporters whose belief that Britain should give up her nuclear weapons threatens to disorganise the present defence policy of the party, and possibly even the party itself.

"I think you can enjoy both freedom and peace provided the power of retaliation exists. If you throw it away you are at the mercy of a country governed by a powerful dictatorship with a fanatical belief in ideas most of which we do not agree with at all."

Hugh Hebert reviews documentaries on Mexico's crisis and a round-robin for Palumbo

Building for a revolution

EVERY day 600 people arrive in Mexico City from the countryside, and from the look of this town, most of them shack up in the nearest horsebox. Shanties lean against each other in ragged rows, thrown together without plan or planning permission so that in the end the city authorities have only two alternatives: bulldoze, or embrace. Sometime this year, this will become the world's largest city, with 17 million people, and with every prospect of doubling that by the end of the century.

In A Day in Three Lives (The World About Us, BBC-2), we saw this vast urban sprawl through a 13-year-old boy who wants to box his way out of the slums, a town planner who is trying to sort the whole damn place out and a chic lady who designs and makes glass-bead encrusted clothes that sell in New York for \$1,200 a blouse. As the town planner explained, Mexico staged the first revolution of the 20th century and remains one of the most unequal societies on earth.

It was the second night in succession we had trudged through the rotting barrios of Latin America while some of their poorest inhabitants told us their desolate tales. In Mexico City, young Juan told how his mother had died in his arms, how his father scrapes a living, trading in junk on the sidewalk, while the lad cannibalises old toys for the stock in trade.

On Thursday night, we followed Nada round Bogota in her search for her two eldest children, driven to run away by their stepfather. This first of a new series of Global Report (BBC-2), produced by David Wheatley, went one better than asking the people to tell their own stories. It had Barry Collins write a script based on interviews, check it with his characters, and then let them act out their own lives in a film of outstanding dignity, simplicity and power. All that was missing was the tears; they must have been wept already, and could not be re-created.

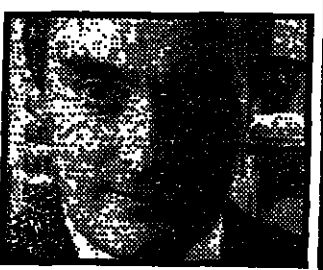
The Bogota we were shown was not quite the familiar Latin American cityscape, paste jewels flung on a dunghill. It was presented more as a condition of its people, a state of existence for people who might be exhausted and resigned but are still, like their shanties, propped up by each other. Clem Vallance's view of Mexico City was less committed, less idealistic, but not finally less hopeful. Its planners, trained in America, have now realised that what stimulates in New York may poison in

Mexico. Poor Mexico, the saying goes. So far from God, so close to the United States.

Which you might also say of the City of London; but maybe all cities get the buildings they deserve. The Square Mile already has the national Westminster prick, and the Barbican, a sphincter entirely surrounded by piles, so why deny Peter Palumbo his 25-year dream of building his 250-foot glass tower at the Mansion House?

If it roasts its clerks, bankrupts its tenants with fuel bills, or cocks up the microclimate of Queen Victoria Street, well, that's the property business, folks. With a bit of luck it will stand empty because all the people that in 1968 they thought would be working here by 1975 will by 1990 be running their businesses from home by micro and speaking Dot Matrix.

Now you may think this is gratuitous abuse, but they seem perfectly pertinent



● Peter Palumbo

points in the hot debate whether this Mies van der Rohe design, nicknamed the glass stump, should be built or not. But they rated just two sentences in the whole hour of The Battle for Mansion House Square (Omnibus, BBC-1). The whole question was presented as whether the Victorian society should be allowed to save a handful of undistinguished buildings with a certain pastiche charm, or whether what its supporters call an authentic 20th-century masterpiece should replace them. Letting people tell their own stories is one thing; letting them get away with weasel words about topical issues is something else. No one asked if these Victorian relics were the most important reasons for opposing the Palumbo plan, or how far the magic name of Mies had been used to oil the passage of a scheme that, even in 1968, must have been seen as disruptive.

Worst of all no one in this parade of glibness and arrogance was asked to define what made this building "a masterpiece". The argument presented was simply Mies is one of the greatest 20th-century architects. Mies designed this building, therefore this is a great building. QED. For as some of Mies's supporters would no doubt put it, FU2.

THE organisers of American Images. Photography 1945-1980, tell us in the catalogue that they see this show as an "expose" of the development of Post-War American culture. Their exhibition provides over three and a half decades during which the American way of eating, drinking, fighting, playing music, doing business, has become the world's way. We have seen the building of Marshall McLuhan's "global village."

But by limiting their search for the real America to the nation itself, the organisers have undoubtedly ensured that their "expose" is not too damaging. There is no Korea, no Vietnam, no Latin America, no Iran, no a soldier, not even a mugger in sight. What we have here is a show which accords that the dream wasn't all it was cracked up to be but which stops well short of pointing a finger at the stars and stripes and bellowing: "J'accuse!"

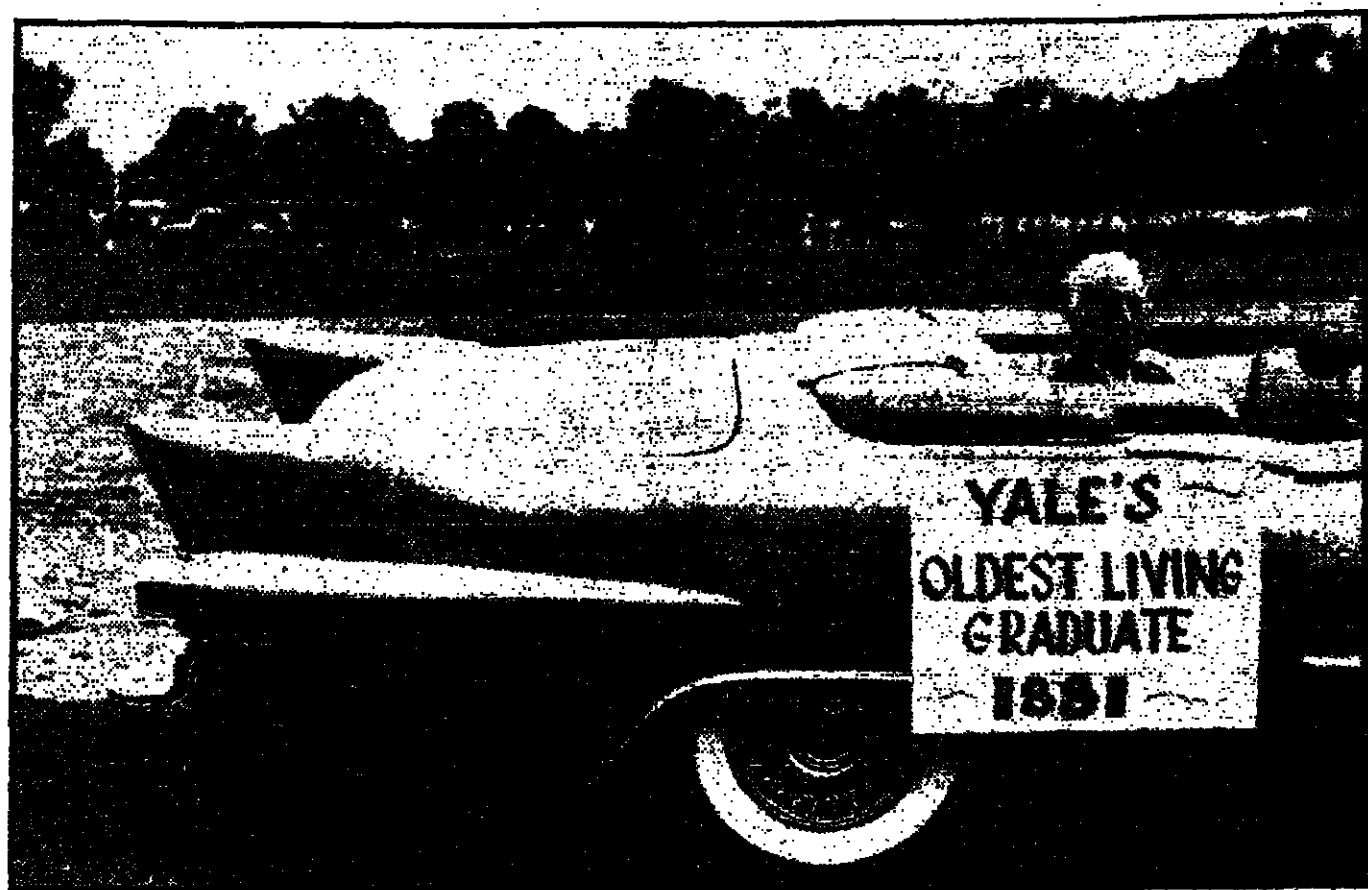
Larry Clark takes us into a grubby motel room in Tulsa. A young man with a Jesus Christ haircut and a heart tattooed on his shoulder is injecting heroin into the arm of his girlfriend, who kneels before him, her hips. The photograph neither recoils from the sight nor sighs with sadness. On the contrary it laps it up and thrills at the danger, turning our two pathetic youngsters into heroes and their way of life into a quest.

Irving Penn does the same when he photographs a Hell's Angel sitting astride his motorbike in the gloom, as if he was Plato and the Harley Davidson was his horse, Aetona, "swift as an eagle" and hell-bent on hell.

What we are seeing here is not the camera's ability to preserve and collect fragments of reality which would otherwise be lost, but its ability to take a mundane moment in time and turn it into history, single it out, frame it and endow it with meaning, transform low life into high art. It is hardly surprising that America and the camera took to each other so wholeheartedly.

The search for a deeper meaning of life for heroes and myths is surely the primary reason why the camera spends so much of its time in this show on the road. At the start of the journey, in 1944, Ansel Adams travels up into the Sierra Nevada mountains and stares across at a sublime and thrilling landscape, a Turnerqueque vision of snow-capped peaks and swirling clouds. A moment later he is in Death Valley, California, noticing the moody geometry of the sand dunes.

Paul Strand gives us a gallery of peasant faces, strong, unsmiling, tougher than you, buddy. The brilliant Edward Weston, whose command of mood, and range of ambivalence, must surely make him the greatest 20th-century American photographer, takes a nude out into a sunny day and leans her against a peeling wall. All he asks her to do is to scratch her back but the camera records the gesture as something patently significant, like the athlete scrapping down his arm in the great statue by Lysippos.



Love affairs with the camera—Elliott Erwitt's Newhaven 1955 (below) detail from Bruce Davidson's From East 100th Street.

Waldemar Januszczak on a retrospective of post-war American photography

The first picture show



Hines's hot piano and Negro jazz music in general." Delete Bach, synthetic chemistry and Rimbaud: substitute Dylan, dope-smoking and Jack Kerouac, and there you have it in a nutshell — The Great American Wet-Dream. How many observers really mistook it for Emerson's Utopia?

Certainly not the photographers themselves. Right from the start they give the impression of a pack of roving Pinkerton men, criss-crossing the land, driving up and down Route 66, peering into people's windows, their cars, their sex-lives, desperately searching for something significant to pin on the American way of life.

In 1945, Edward Weston stared into the calm surface of a stream and discovered a dead pelican, its eyes open, its body broken and knotted. In 1947, Morris Engel looked up at a window in Harlem and saw three black children and their mother pressed against the glass, trapped and sad. In 1951, Arthur Rothstein visited a Charity Ball in New York and accused two old women, dripping with pasty jewellery of looking ridiculous.

This exhibition is at its most uplifting during its first decade when the camera is still in the hands of pioneers each of whom sets off in a different direction to search for photographic gold. Ansel Adams goes up into the Sierra Nevada mountains. Weegee hits the clubs. John Gutmann is the first to join on the road and

values change. Frank was an outsider, a Swiss photographer who came to America on a scholarship and quickly embarked upon a long photographic lament upon the soullessness of America, its grubbiness, the shallowness of its culture. Frank takes us into a world of "hat-check girls, waitresses, truckers, midnight cowboys, niggers and comic queers."

In a view of Butte, Montana, taken in 1946, Frank's camera peers through a set of net curtains at a grim industrial landscape, black roofs and puffing chimneys. But the net curtains effectively separate you from the bleak landscape. You're not meant to look at that. It is as if the direction in which the camera points has been reversed and the focus of the picture is not the landscape at all but the photographer himself, holed up in a safe room, looking at the able and alone on this grey American day.

If Kertess was to walk past that same wall today the chances are that some kid from the block would have sprayed his new nom de guerre all over it in full, throbbing graffiti colour. Crazy or Ebony Lover or Skill or most likely, Lee, the loudest, bravest and, I imagine, one of the richest of the graffiti artists.

In a land which is always looking for new home-grown heroes, the lionization of graffiti artists like Lee by fashionable New York galleries is less surprising than the ease with which these former delinquents and sub-way outlaws have adapted to the ways of the international art world.

Two interlocking exhibitions at the Riverside Studios celebrate (somewhat belatedly since the craze has surely come and gone) the art of graffiti. Photographers Martha Cooper and Henry Chalfont recorded graffiti's heyday, in the late Seventies, when entire trains were covered from wheel to roof, from first carriage to final, in splendid moving pictures, a mobile kiddie's cinema with a heartbreakingly brief lifespan.

Nobody created better pictures, nor wrote his name in larger letters than Lee, who, by becoming a fashionable gallery artist, has at least secured some permanence for his work.

Lee is the focus of the second Riverside show. His giant comic-book characters have lost most of their former zest and totter permanently on the edge of desecration. A pair of grotesque lovers wait for Doomsday. The King of Pain, sits on a lavatory and masturbates himself to death.

But for me the most effective thing that Lee ever did was to make the statement he painted on the wall of a handball court, Lower East Side, 1982: "There is only one reason for art, to know that you are alive."

American Images, Photography 1945-1980 is at the Barbican until June 30. Lee Quinones, Cooper and Chalfont are at Riverside Studios until June 16.

Unto the breach again

Michael Billington reviews Kenneth Branagh's Henry V at the Barbican

QEH

Hugo Cole

Hanover Band

THE Hanover Band specialises in late 18th- and early 19th-century music played on contemporary instruments in an optimistic, the authentic manner, but does not aim to reproduce the doubtful intonation and lax ensemble which Beethoven's audiences probably took for granted. Last night's concert did however reveal some of the strengths of an ensemble directed by a violin-leader, as well as suggesting that the management of the relatively primitive wind instruments of 200 years back is still something of a bit or miss affair.

The strings play well together as a group—as they should, with some of the best baroque players in London among them—and respond closely to Monica Huggett's direction. The opening of the final allegro of Beethoven's First Symphony was well coordinated as in any virtuoso-conducted orchestra. But the wind section seemed to be rather left out of the family group. Phrasing was often casual, there were some smudged notes and too many intonation problems which made the precise directions about pitch levels discussed in the programme seem fairly academic. There was

ADRIAN NOBLE's version of Henry V at the Barbican strikes me as one of the best Shakespeare productions of recent years. It offers simultaneously a criticism of Falkland-type civilisation, a defiant celebration of exhausted victory and a reminder that the reality of war is, in Henry's words, "rainy marching in the painful field." It doesn't wantonly impose a point of view; it simply looks out the variety of arguments in Shakespeare's multi-angled text.

What I shall remember most from the evening is the poignant sense of loss. You see this best in the exquisitely-played scene of low-life leaving-taking: Patricia Routledge's Mistress Quickly shows a heart

breaking as she describes the death of Falstaff ("as cold as stone") a great cry of grief which is followed by the embarrassment and pain of departure.

This note is sounded again as Kenneth Branagh's king fights back tears as Bardolph is strangled in front of him for pilaging. And it echoes and re-echoes in the poignant refrain of "Would I were in an almshouse" and in the constant spectacle of the corpses of the murdered luggage-boys even when Henry is wooing the French princess. War, this production reminds us, is a game to the French, a tactic to the English and a tragedy to individual humanity.

But what also makes this produc-



Kenneth Branagh

tion exciting is the way Noble and designer Bob Crowley show the same adventurous use of stage-space they revealed in King Lear. Civilian scenes are played in front of a Brechtian traverse-curtain. War is evoked through smoke issuing through subterranean-Mt panels transforming the English into so many "horrid ghosts." And the French (symbolising the phoney glamour of war) at one point descend from the skies appalled in burnished gold. This is not mindless pageantry: each scene is staged in a way that offers a critical comment on its content with even the traverse-curtain turning into a blood-stained emblem after the murder of the boys.

Kenneth Branagh's Henry con-

firms the good impression he made in Stratford: he combines boyish vulnerability with moral gravitas. I'm not sure he would be capable of the brutalities threatened before Harfleur but it is an impressively appealing and well-spoken performance.

Ian McDiarmid's Chorus (looking like an RAF bomber-pilot) is vocally tricky but rivetingly sardonic and there is good work from Nicholas Woodeson who makes Dauphin a nervous peacock and from John Carlisle as the Archbishop of Canterbury who puts the case for war with desperate ingenuity. But the heart of this is one of the production's major points) doesn't have to endure the horrendous reality.

DINGWALLS

Phil Shaw

Big Heat

IT is an indictment of the way black American music has been hijacked by synthesizers, drum-machines and songs that rhyme with "tragic" with "magic" that the best soul single of the year is by an all-white British band.

Big Heat's unfortunately-titled Watch Me Catch Fire is a brooding ballad with a "live" feel—a brave choice for a first release. If the Righteous Brothers had waxed for Stax, this is how it would have sounded.

The single peaked at No. 38. But like the Pogues before them, Big Heat are discovering that having Elvis Costello as your producer guarantees credibility if not cash. For a group who have played barely 20 gigs, Dingwalls would have had a better turn-out only if they had promised a Springsteen ticket to every customer.

Thomas of the Attractions), and the Rumour Hons.

The performance sounds under-rehearsed, but the giant Hurley, dressed to the nines, commands the stage like a trimmed-down John Mellencamp. The voice is as big as the man, duelling and edging with Barfield's falsetto. Their music is mainly up-tempo, most of it penned by Barfield, whose Standing On The Edge of Love is the stand-out on Paul Young's latest album.

Unlike Young's former band the Q Tips, whose brass-based style was superficially similar, Big Heat are not revivalists. They start with a Motown song, My Whole World Ended, and finish with the O'Jays' Love Train, but the meat in the sandwich is their own material.

The pacy anti-Thatcher number Better The Devil You Know shows their feel for contemporary issues, and could be the song to bring Big Heat to a bigger audience.

TRICYCLE

Nicholas de Jongh

Lonely Cowboy

LONELY Cowboy is not an all-American hero who rides unescorted into the sunset, but a new café on Brixton's front line. It retails ethnic snacks, Jamaican rum and community chatter, while

maintaining a veto on in-house music "back to Africa" politics or bicycles wheeled inside.

Alfred Fago in his new play uses this place both literally and metaphorically to show how hard it is for today's second generation blacks to escape their traditions and circumstances—money-lending or dealing in marijuana—and settle for respectable small business life.

The play which spans six scenes and the first 16 days of the café's precarious existence at first seems no more than a jovial comedy of black manners, with Gina and her husband Flight who lives up to his name and disappears for hours in the cause of marijuana, playing host to their friends.

These are a small vivid cross section on the Brixton front line, ranging from Dalton, stoned neighbourhood poet providing culture for his brothers, Thema, the long-legged local sex object, by way of a black policeman on the beat.

But then with the appearance of Stanley, a smooth modern cowboy in a beige suit, the play acquires impetus as the new visitor urges Flight to join him supplying all Brixton with marijuana. It is, however, another customer who steals off with the dope and precipitates a flourish of action and police intervention.

A comic battle of wits leads two men briefly into the police cells but when Stanley returns to the café, the play suddenly erupts into a flurry of violence, all the more shocking and believable because it seems to burst

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Edward Greenfield reviews the ENO's production of Tippet's Midsummer Marriage

Idyll sound of summer



Maldwyn Davies and Lesley Garrett at the Coliseum. Picture by Douglas Jeffery

ANYONE who has ever doubted that Sir Michael Tippett's *Midsummer Marriage* is the most exuberant of all modern operas should promptly go and hear the full-throated performance under the baton of Mark Elder at the Coliseum. The ambitious new English National Opera production directed by David Pountney is exuberant too, even if the exuberance of the whole evening is so busy with symbols from every area that even Sir Michael himself might be foxed — hardly matches that of the music.

This, after all, despite the debts to Jung, T. S. Eliot, Mozart's *Zauberflöte* and much else, is an English idyll. I am still waiting for a production that reflects in its stage visions the midsummer glow of the music. Significantly one of the most powerfully poetic moments of the whole evening, inspiring a frisson of expectation, comes at the very beginning of Act 3 even before the curtain goes up and you hear the joyous sound of the midsummer revellers from afar.

In his sets Stefanos Lazaridis has opted not for direct evocation but for a fantasy world of squiggles, spirals and geometric shapes after Klee and Miro. Sally Gardner in her costumes has matched that erratically: the 1950s trench-coats worn by the chorus in Act 1 are as dowdy as the chorus's costumes in previous productions.

As to other symbols it is fair enough to draw on pagan ritual and the traditions of medieval mummery: Strephon, for example, the mute attendant figure in all three acts, wears a stag's head with antlers like a horn dancer. The hero, Mark, with John Treleaven confidently resonant — addresses his big Act 1 aria to a life-size doll dressed as a bride, before his beloved Jennifer (Helen Field) in ringing voice, a forceful dominant figure — arrives in anorak and slacks to put off the happy day.

Equally King Fisher — Anthony Raffell compellingly dark and sinister — is flown in riding on top of a large globe of the world complete with zip-fastener over Africa where money later comes out. This capitalist exploiter might be from a Unity Theatre produc-

tion of the 1930s. Bella, his secretary, in grass-green miniskirt and shocking-pink satin shoes, is equally a caricature, but this time out of a Carry On film, made splendidly convincing by brilliant acting from Lesley Garrett.

These and many other glosses devised by Mr Pountney and his three inventive assistants, John Lloyd Davies, Keith Warner and Ben Benison, work well enough in Act 1, where the thread of Tippett's story is at its clearest with the human relationships most sharply defined. Where the incessant symbolic point-making becomes distracting and finally wearisome is in the remaining two acts.

In Act 2 the duets between Bella and her beloved, the mechanic Jack (Papageno and Papagena translated), are charming for all their exaggeration, but in the central ballet of the Ritual Dances Tippett's own detailed scenario has been scrapped in favour of a fantasy involving multiple Strephons dancing with and around, first a pyramid, then a cube and finally a sphere, all very symbolic no doubt, but of what, one wonders?

In Act 3 the point-making grows ever more desperate, exaggerating the fact that in his irrepressible energy both as librettist and composer Tippett has wronged together too many separate episodes. The relatively modest Welsh National Opera production, necessarily on a far smaller scale, held those closing scenes together far more cogently.

Yet the very fact of having a very large chorus, 70 or so strong, often confronting the audience direct, adds powerfully to the impact of what increasingly becomes a choral piece.

One can hardly exaggerate how powerfully throughout the evening Tippett's inspiration comes over, thanks to Elder's incisive conducting and the accuracy and confidence of the singing, including among others Maldwyn Davies as Jack, Alfredda Hodgson as Soosotria (hardly her fault that so few words are audible) and Dennis Wicks and Anne-Marie Owens as a characterful pair of Ancients.

Desmond Christy on the Young Vic's Measure For Measure

Harsh times

THE programme has quotations from Mrs Thatcher and two infamous wits: Matthew (Ch. 7, verses 1-5) and John (Ch. 8, verses 3-11). No wonder then that David Thacker's modern dress production of *Measure for Measure* takes the moist Shakespearean view and not the puritan one of the Iron Lady and the most strict deputy, Lord Angelo.

The great scenes between Isabella and Angelo are outstanding. Joanna Foster's Isabella is not the best spoken sister of mercy we have seen but she is one of the most feeling, this is not a neurotic novice obsessed with chastity but one who sincerely believes that her immortal soul is worth more than her brother's life. This moral absolutism, pitted against Angelo's lustful casuistry, makes for superb drama.

John Gillett — he could be Mr Heseltine's double — is convincing both in his portrayal of rigid virtue and in the way he becomes almost unshaken by the sexuality that Isabella unleashes in him. Best of all was the way in which he and Miss Foster transported their rhetoric into an intimacy of shared fallibility. "We are all frail," says Angelo. "Women are frail, too," Isabella agrees, and for a moment vice and virtue seem humbled by their shared humanity.

And what of the Duke, the *deus ex machina* if not the demigod of authority itself? It is tough on Peter Guinness as the Duke that his director seems not the least interested or convinced by the kind of heavenly pretensions that Adrian Noble sanctioned in his recent RSC production. In consequence, the Duke mouths his maxims of doubtful comfort and only in the final scene do people seem to listen to him again.

Maybe that's what Thacker wanted. Certainly he likes to surprise. Lucio (Rob Edwards) is a charming fellow, reminiscent of a trendy DJ. Constable Elbow is dressed for Hill Street Blues; the sainted Erasmus is having an affair with his secretary; Barnadine is not the usual monster but a man whose life is the worse for drink; Claudio's pregnant girlfriend is the only black woman in Wien and Mariana has no page to sing "Take, O, take these lips away." She must sing or rather mumble it herself.

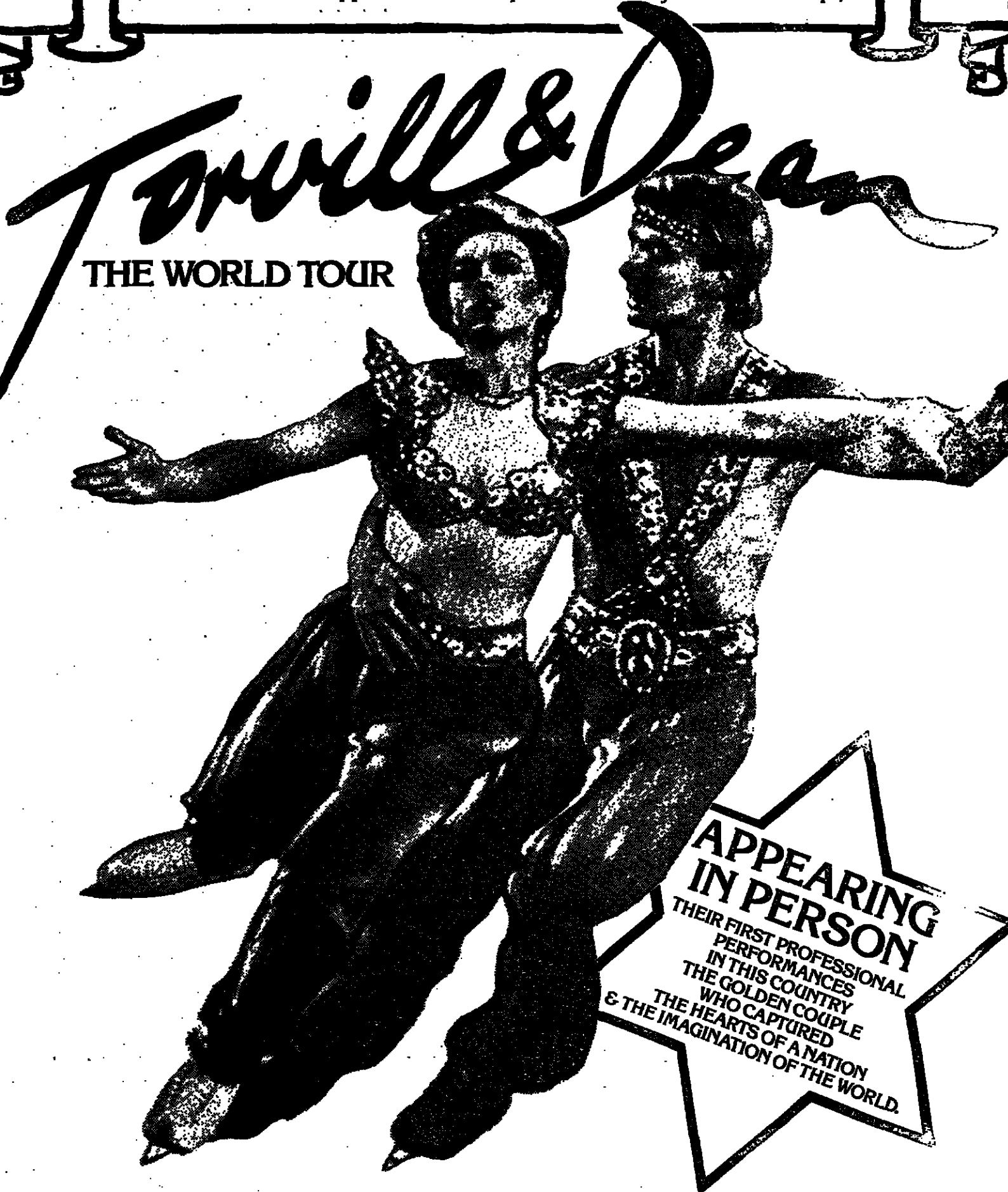
The effect, thanks to Margaret Leicester's touching performance, is not the usual sweet melancholy but the desolate ditty of a forsaken, middle-aged woman.

All this, I'm sure, may be dismissed by others as novelty for the sake of it. What Thacker and the Young Vic have done is to recast every character in the play; to make us listen even to the tapster and the whore. The predominantly A level audience have also been given an object lesson in how living theatre can liberate us from the certainties of critics and classrooms.

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TV and radio highlights

Monday

Horizon (BBC-2, 8.10). In what could serve as a motto for this venerable series, one of the hundreds of contributors likens science to a "very exciting detective story: every time you think you've got it figured out, something else crops up." Actually in this mad dash through 90 excerpts in 50 minutes, from epidural to ECT, from Hiroshima to bedgerows, it's difficult to figure out anything much — except that this programme is well pleased with its prophetic prowess and its occasional exposures of the seamy side of science.

East of Empire (C4, 9.0). Painful account of the botch-up in Palestine which suggests Britain, the US and finally the UN share the blame for the decade of war that followed the setting up of the state of Israel, even though the then Foreign Secretary, Ernest Bevin, foresaw some of the likely consequences.

The Scarlett O'Hara War (BBC-2, 6.0). TV movie choc-a-bloc with little known actors impersonating screen idols of the thirties (Gwyneth Jones as Joan Crawford, Gwen Humble as Paulette Goddard), all possessed by the importance of being Scarlett.

Tuesday

The Secret Country: The First Australians (ITV, 10.30). Report from John Edgar about Australia's "secret history" that may come as a revelation even to his own compatriots. The arrival of Captain Cook in 1788 brought slaughter approaching genocide to the 300,000 aborigines —

"menacing savages" who were legally held not to exist. Equally hidden from most white Australians is the aboriginal oral history reaching back 5,000 years and more. "Ned Kelly was only yesterday."

Dark Night Of The Scarecrow (C4, 9.0). Nasty but gripping TV movie about the downfall of a lynch party who execute a retarded man suspected of being a child killer. Some truly disgusting effects — farmer disappearing into threshing



Maria Schneider (C4 Thursday) machine followed by blob of strawberry jam landing on plate — make up for the absence of explicit, Halloween-style horror.

Wednesday

Voices (C4, 11.0). Nadine Gordimer and Susan Sontag discussing the private and public roles of a writer make riveting listening compared with this week's musings by Umberto Eco and Stuart Hall. Though Gordimer has had some of her implicitly anti-apartheid books banned in her native South Africa, she agrees with Sontag that a writer's first duty is to her work not to providing a moral lead. Sontag, in retreat from her Vietnam campaigning days, is conspicuous of her fellow American writers who yearn

for "a necessary subject" like Gordimer's: "It's frivolous to envy people their historical tragedies."

Bookmark (BBC-2, 9.55). Unlike today's British writers, the second world war poet Keith Douglas has had his own "necessary subject." So too does the Peruvian novelist Vargas Llosa. The former is assessed by Ian Hamilton, the latter interviewed by Silvia Naipaul.

Thursday

Stage for Europe (C4, 9.30). So anxious is this film not to load the dice in favour of the international salesman who shopped a Swiss pharmaceutical giant to the European Commission that it undercuts the drama and tragedy of a man gaoled and left destitute, and his wife driven to suicide. Is Steven Taylor transparently based on Stanley Adams, the disgruntled employee? David Suchet and Maria Schneider make the best of the ambiguities.

Friday

Black Angels (BBC-2, 7.50). Remarkable archive film and poignant reminiscences from the corners of the second world war fought in Papua and New Guinea. Of all the young tribesmen conscripted by the Allies "some got medals, some were hanged, none were Australians."

Witness Of The Sea (BBC-2, 11.25). The "secret truth" of Australia's past is leaking out, Filgate or no. This historical drama series from Down Under concerns a mother and child, the only survivors of a massacre of aborigines by white settlers.

Helen Oldfield

Radio

Today: Strathnaver (Radio 4, 3.30 pm). Prize-winning account by Robin Bell of a fictional Scottish country town in the decade after the Second World War.

Russell Hart's Musical Encounters (Radio 4, 6.25 pm). While Desert Island Discs takes a break, this new series starts with Sir Harold Acton, raconteur and wit — and Mr H is bound to be a more entertaining host than the increasingly bland Roy Plomley.

The Teddy Bear and the Critics (Radio 3, 7 pm). A serious literary assessment of

the work of John Betjeman, with a collection of interesting contributions, including Philip Larkin.

Tomorrow: It's Your World (Radio 4, 12.10 pm). Guest in the international phone-in is Pk Botha of South Africa.

The Leopard (Radio 4, 8 pm). Anthony Smith tells the story of the bronze leopard to be unveiled by the Lord Mayor of London next week.

Monday: Something to Scare Off (Radio 4, 8.45 pm). Michael Ardit's first radio play is about two mothers and their sons, all

spending the summer together in the country.

Tuesday: Making Noise About Life (Radio 4, 8.30 pm). Repeat of this fascinating and revealing programme about an anthropologist and his meeting with one old man in Morocco.

Thursday: The North Sea Bubble (Radio 4, 7.40 pm). What has happened to our oil revenues, and what will happen in the future? Report by Brian Redhead and John Forsyth.

Val Arnold-Forster

The grey reality of the Ulster vote

After the last two elections in Northern Ireland, for Westminster and Strasbourg, nails were bitten at the prospect that this week Sinn Féin would carry a majority of the Nationalist vote in the local councils. The IRA would then have been able to represent itself as the authentic voice of nationalism, especially in the eastern cities of America whence comes most of its financial support. That claim would have been specious, because Sinn Féin would still represent only a small fraction of the vote in Ireland as a whole. Nevertheless it would have undermined the constant attempts by the Irish Embassy in Washington, as well as the British, to persuade American opinion that support for the IRA damages the whole island. In the event, it didn't happen. The SDLP under John Hume beat Sinn Féin under Gerry Adams by roughly 3:2.

There is no point in pretending, even so, that the two governments can take a relaxed view of Sinn Féin's standing. It polled heavily in West Belfast and is the largest party in Omagh. Deals will have to be struck with the SDLP in several councils so that Nationalists combined can take control from Unionists. Those who voted Sinn Féin did so in full knowledge of its twin-track policy of using both the ballot box and the armalite. Thus it was incautious if not purblind of James Moynihan, the Official Unionist leader, to resent any comment which the Irish Foreign Minister, Peter Barry, should have to make on the results. Mr Barry, he said, was acting as though he were the protecting power of the Nationalist minority. Indeed, and that he should become so in fact as well as aspiration would be a very desirable outcome of the current Anglo-Irish talks. The loyalties and voting patterns of Northern Ireland are far too exceptional, compared with anywhere else in Europe, to fit the neat constitutional simplicities which Mr Moynihan wants to perpetuate.

The declared policy of the Northern Ireland Office is to have no dealings with Sinn Féin councillors for as long as they fail to renounce the armed struggle. Nicholas Scott repeated yesterday that it would be an insult to the people who have suffered so much to treat with those who advocated the continuance of that agony. It is not easy to quarrel with that stark point. Nor would Dublin be especially pleased, first because of its general support for John Hume and secondly because in the past it has condemned contacts between the British Government and the IRA, Sinn Féin's alter ego. (It is characteristically quaint in context that the SF chairman of Galway county council in the Republic should have been elected with Fine Gael support.)

How this policy would work in practice is difficult to foresee. If the SDLP and SF share out the chairmanships between them on councils which they jointly control, does this mean that the government would talk about sewers but not cemeteries, about playing fields but not roads? It will be better to apply rules of thumb rather than adamant principles. Having deplored the SDLP's abstentionism in the assembly it would appear inconsistent not to deal with Sinn Féiners who join and indeed run the councils to which they are elected.

In total the results fall short of the upheaval feared as counting proceeded. But they allow for no let-up in the Anglo-Irish talks. Means have to be found for involving the Republic, as of right, in those affairs in which Catholics feel alienated through the perpetual minority. For whatever details the clerk announces, the results of an Ulster election are always basically the same.

The lawyers win again

Oh brave intentions; oh cringing reality. The Government's plans to break up the near-monopoly which solicitors have on conveyancing has hit a dogged rearward action by Lord Hailsham and the Law Society. Ministers, under pressure from Mr Austin Mitchell's private members' Bill, committed themselves to ending the monopoly but recognised that a solution sanctioning a new substrata of licensed conveyancers would provide no more than piecemeal competition. They were thus poised to allow big lending institutions, particularly building societies, into the market. But the legal profession cried "foul," claiming that it would be all too easy for building societies to offer a mortgage and conveyancing package which would squeeze solicitors out unfairly and end up with replacing one kind of monopoly with another. Collapse of unstout party.

There are two main reasons put forward for keeping the status quo. The first is that solicitors need the profits from conveyancing to finance the low paid work they do in the field of legal aid. This is less true than it used to be, because conveyancing fees have been declining in response to increased competition; but even so the correct policy must be to increase the remuneration for legal aid rather than relying on the paternalistic discretion of solicitors. Second, the solicitors have argued (and highly successfully, it appears) that allowing building societies to provide mortgages and conveyancing services will involve a conflict of interest in that they will be acting for two sets of clients with different interests. But this already happens now when a building society nominates a single "panel solicitor" to act for two parties (and collect two fees). There have, strangely, been no complaints from the Law Society about that. Nor about the growing practice of solicitors being involved in the creation of property shops.

Buying a house is not the sort of process where you need adversarial solicitors or a counselling service. Most people would be quite happy to have a single solicitor to declare — and face the legal consequences if he is wrong — that the transfer of ownership has been correctly achieved. In France it is all done by a single "notaire." Obviously the cost attributed by the building society to the conveyancing must be assessed at "arms length" from the costs of the mortgage. But competing solicitors who have failed to get the business are in a better position than most to ring necessary alarm bells.

The Government's threatened compromise — where a customer for a mortgage would have to get a solicitor from another building society to do the conveyancing part — would be little better than the present system even if, which seems unlikely, building societies wanted this kind of business. So the Consumers' Association is surely right. People should at least be able to choose a "one stop" service, to agree to have one solicitor acting for both sides or (choice again) to hire their own solicitor. The CA advised Mr Mitchell, who was persuaded to drop his own backbench bill to break the conveyancing monopoly in exchange for a Government commitment to introduce its own legislation. But now that deal is paper promises. A Government which is prepared to abolish wages councils in order to reduce the wages of those already on the lowest pay, but which backs away from the solicitors' monopoly at the first whiff of grapple, has proved it has no monopoly of courage or compassion, let alone fairness.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tight fists for our towns

Sir,—We write as the elected chairs of various national bodies in the voluntary sector whose constituent local organisations are working in close collaboration with districts and boroughs throughout the country. We are collectively concerned about the future of the Traditional Urban Programme which supports the work of voluntary bodies in "socially deprived areas" in England and Wales.

The Department of the Environment has announced serious reductions to this programme, and is reported to have cut the allocation for new schemes—projecting "time-expired" projects—from £15 million in 1984-5 to only £7.5 million in 1985-6. These reductions are, we understand, to be achieved by eliminating some urban areas.

We believe this decision to be profoundly mistaken. For the past 15 years, "urban areas" have been a vital source of support for many thousands of voluntary groups to establish projects geared to tackling urban deprivation. This is true not only of the distressed inner-city areas, but also of the "pockets" of deprivation which exist in many smaller towns and cities, often where the authorities lack either the expertise or the will to support new initiatives through their main programmes.

These schemes have had a real and lasting impact both on their local communities and also on the way statutory bodies make their own provision. Services such as holiday play schemes, free legal advice, and various volunteer development programmes have been particularly dependent on urban aid support and, if it is to be reduced as severely as the figures imply, a great many people will suffer.

Now, of course, the impact of block grant penalties and the new rate-capping legislation, give added importance to the support from central government through the Traditional Urban Programme. Reductions of this scale will be a major blow to the development of local voluntary action, and we urge Ministers to reconsider their decision.—Yours etc., E. F. T. Cribb, (Prof.) Nicholas Deakin, Jon Gearing, (Dr) Alan Rogers, c/o British Association of Settlements and Social Action Centres, London SW9.

Expert call

Sir,—The duty solicitor scheme (Guardian, May 16) comprises of small groups of solicitors who, on a rota basis and for a very modest fee, represent any defendant who appears at court, either in custody or on bail, without help. The main purpose of the duty solicitor is to see that the defendant is not alone and unrepresented when he or she is dealt with by the courts. For any person to appear in a criminal court without representation is probably one of the most awesome experiences that an individual can face.

It is now proposed that the scheme be extended to 24 hours so that when arrested at night, a defendant from a police station can make contact with a solicitor on the rota. In theory the scheme is excellent, but before it is implemented, there must be properly organised and, above all, properly funded.

Under the proposed extended scheme, the duty solicitor, after duty in the office, will have to be "on call" at all hours of the night, then have to appear in court the next morning for the defendant and thereafter return to his office to continue to run his practice. Thus the duty solicitor will be effectively on duty for 48 hours.

There are some dedicated solicitors in our society and throughout the country who are prepared to co-operate and run such a scheme, but that service must be properly organised and suitably rewarded. Furthermore, the remuneration must contain London and big city weighting. L. M. Groves, West London Law Society, London W1.

Sir,—I would be grateful if Lord Hailsham could explain why it is unacceptable to make solicitors redundant because of the restrictive practices in conveyancing, but good laissez-faire economics for miners, printers, steelworkers, car workers, etc. etc. to lose their jobs because of a "laissez-faire" overmanaging.—Yours faithfully, Simon Peacock, Montpellier, Bristol.

Ticket only

Sir,—Your Diarist had a nice little story (May 16) about Denis Healey being admitted to the Red Square VIP stands on VE-Day. But I'd like to see anyone get admittance to a British state occasion on production of a Moscow bus pass. Visitors to the Soviet Union often find that it's a more relaxed, friendly, and open society than our paranoid and security-conscious "democracy".—Yours sincerely, Mark Jones, Harlow, Essex.

Two football solutions for price of one

Sir,—The tragedy of the Bradford fire has rightly centred public attention on the inadequacy of many smaller football stadiums and it looks as if we can expect millions of pounds to be spent on improving safety standards.

While the Government will expect football's own coffers to bear part of the responsibility, it seems inevitable that public money will also be spent. This outlay may eventually produce safer and more comfortable facilities for spectators at Third and Fourth Division matches, but it will not alter the state of the clubs themselves.

For the past few years many have faced increasing financial strains brought about by rising costs and falling gates. The future of professional football in the lower divisions of the league may well be in doubt, while the possibility of a super league and semi-professional football for those outside it become closer realities.

So, should this be the time to contemplate spending millions of pounds on stadiums that often house crowds of less than 2,000 and then just once a fortnight? Certainly, the safety of spectators is of paramount importance, but now must be the time to look at long-term needs and not just the immediate problem.

If millions can be found, they could be invested in creating local community

sports facilities used by football clubs but shared among other sports with similar needs, and extended to become wider-based centres offering a range of sports activities.

There would be the advantages of spreading public money more broadly around the community and bringing such facilities more directly under the responsibility of local authorities. Such partnerships between business-minded football clubs and community-minded local authorities could help ensure that we don't witness the horrific scenes at Bradford again, and that football itself in the lower divisions has a future.—Yours faithfully, Paul Seward, 2 Lidgate Hill, Pudsey, Leeds.

Sir,—David Canter's article (May 16) about crowd reaction to fire raises some important questions. He writes: "The question must be raised whether or when the public address system (at Bradford City) was used to advise people to leave."

The fact is that not a single announcement was made over Bradford's public address system. The question I have been asking myself ever since I climbed over the back of the pitch to safety is: whether such an announcement would have helped to reduce the casualties.

Mr Canter is absolutely right about the sheer disbelief of those directly threatened by the fire. The antics of teenagers on the pitch when the fire was at its height, the continued chanting of "City, we love you" (heard on television, but not by anyone on the pitch) bear witness to this.

In my own case, I found the referee, Don Shaw, wandering in a bemused state round the far side of the pitch four or five minutes after the fire had taken hold. The fact that I suggested to him that he should consider abandoning the match shows how the reality of the situation had not hit me.

It is possible that a public announcement might have created panic, causing people to be trampled underfoot in the rush to safety. But at the same time it might have saved those poor souls who made their way to the rear of the stand—their accustomed exit—to find the doors locked.—Yours faithfully, Michael Higgins, 23 Larkhill Avenue, Cleckheaton, W. Yorkshire.

Sir,—I must congratulate you on your excellent edition (May 13) on Bradford fire tragedy, but I take a slight exception to John Cunningham's readable "Four and a half minutes of nightmare" in which he says Britain's

worst football ground disaster, in 1971 at Ibrox, was attributable to the crowd rather than to any structural fault.

I can remember as a boy being stamped at the end of games down the Ibrox stairs where 66 lost their lives. Because I was the small one of our particular group and the youngest, I was always placed in front of the adults. They used to form a protective barrier as a great mass of fans started down a remarkably steep drop to what was then the Copeland Street Underground exit.

It was a lightning dash from top to bottom at break-neck speed and, once started, it was impossible to stop. Perhaps the crowd in its excitement to escape the ground and reach the Underground was always behaving in a thoughtless manner. But that particular exit, its design and its structure, was always an invitation to disaster.—Yours faithfully, Donald McNeil, 65 Chancellor Street, Glasgow.

Sir,—The tragedy at Bradford City's ground has shown that the Safety at Sports Grounds Act, 1975, is too limited. But what about the Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974, which requires employers to ensure that the condition and use of any premises pose no risk to the health, safety and welfare to

both their employees and non-employees?

At present responsibility for enforcing this Act in places of entertainment, including football stadiums, lies with the Health and Safety Executive. It has been suggested by the Health and Safety Commission that this responsibility should be transferred to local authorities. But then two tiers of local government would be involved in the regulation of football grounds, each using different legislation, which would not help to avert future tragedies.

The Roberts Committee on Health and Safety at Work pointed out the basic defect of licensing in that it puts the onus for judging standards on the licensee rather than the licensee.

An inquiry into last Saturday's events at Bradford and Birmingham has already been set up. It will be disappointing if it fails to show that the Safety at Sports Grounds Act is in radical need of overhaul, or that the onus for ensuring that such disasters do not recur lies with those who create the risk: the football clubs themselves.

Regulations under the Health and Safety at Work Act might prove to be a better mechanism.—Yours sincerely, Graham Page, Tottenham College of Technology, London N15.

The never-ending battle against discrimination



Sir,—Discrimination ends when people, myself and Mrs Morrell included, cease to discriminate," says John Wood (Letters, May 16).

This is not so. Persistent discrimination leads to an unfair distribution of jobs, housing, and even educational achievement. That unfair distribution does not suddenly alter when Mr Wood or anyone else recognises "our common humanity" and stops discriminating.

So Mrs Morrell was right in her analysis. A discrimination on a condition of affairs persists long after discrimination as a series of acts has ceased, it has to be disclosed. Mr Wood does not seem to have grasped this. That is unfortunate because, whether one agrees with her solutions or not, it is hard to see how Mrs Morrell's article could have put the point more clearly.—Yours faithfully, Peter Newsam, Commission for Racial Equality, London SW1.

Sir,—Frances Morrell describes the hollow reality of the white male-dominated Left (Agenda, May 13) in terms that would lead us to believe that little progress has been achieved by the Parliamentary Labour Party and the rank and file.

This sentiment may well apply to the Parliamentary Labour Party which, it would be argued by many, has also

failed miserably to achieve progress in many areas demanding radical reform, but it is not true of the rank and file constituency parties which have implemented quite radical reforms in the recent parliamentary candidate selection procedures.

Consider, for example, the inner-London Bow and Poplar constituency which seems to be managed by a cadre of young and radical activists. This group acted in a premeditated way, meeting before the shortlisting and final selection committees to determine the policy that only black women nominees would be considered at the exclusion of all others. Then the same cadre proceeded to shortlist the nominees accordingly, arriving at a shortlist of six, comprising four women and two men and within this group two black nominees and just one, perhaps a token, white male nominee.

Some of the seven excluded by this procedure were bewildered at the harshness of considering candidates to be suitable only on racist and sexist grounds the very object of the Labour Party is the unification of attitudes.—Yours, John H. Large, 18 Garford Street, London E14.

PS: Both the writer and Frances Morrell were rejected by Bow and Poplar at the recent shortlisting executive committee; I can qualify my failure as being white and male but what of Frances?

When Labour lets down the women's side

Sir,—Geoffrey Robertson's article on the Sexual Offences Bill (Agenda, May 10) made a number of wrong assumptions.

That the Bill would be successful in fact it was "defeated" the day his article appeared. Technically two Tories talked it out; but in real political terms the Campaign Against Racial Legislation, which coordinated opposition to the Bill nationally and which we initiated, was largely responsible for this defeat. A number of us, the Commons witnesses and monitored—taken Labour opposition.

But the Government was furious, and slipped the Bill back into the House yesterday, knowing that if it kept its secret enough, nobody would be watching either them or the Labour Opposition which had said publicly that it would not impede its passage.

That it was parliament's intention to "make people good" the Bill is intended as a new "law" against prostitute women and black and other working-class men. In fact the minister has now dropped the only clause which might have required corroboration from civilians, while keeping those clauses which depend on police evidence alone. The Bill is using prostitution and moral prejudices to increase police control of the streets.

A woman MP was put up by the Government to pose as a fighter for "the protection of innocent women"; but the Bill was drafted, promoted, and seen through the Commons by the Govern-



ment. Janet Fookes wasn't even present when it passed its third reading yesterday. And it was reported in the Commons that the minister had intimidated MPs into supporting it. So much for making people good.

"Prostitution cannot be eradicated: the task of containing it... includes a degree of discrimination." Prostitution is not invariable. It can be avoided through viable economic alternatives and the abolition of the prostitution laws which institutionalise women on the game. Mr Robertson's view that drugs and pornography are as much to blame as unemployment for the rise in prostitution leads him to hypostasise poverty and propose instead legalised brothels where women can "be more safely for sale."

He will know that women's safety is hardly a police priority. More police time and resources seem to be devoted to "cleaning up" prostitution than to catching rapists and other violent men. And women who report rape to the police are often disbe-

Miscellany at large

Sir,—Now then: Tories third in a Gallup poll! It's time we all did our bit. Danish scrap merchants should grab Brixton. The royal family should all get pregnant. Burglars should bump up the crime figures. And naughty little shop stewards should be caught playing cards while foreign orders are lost. At the very least, the tabloids can create all this is happening.—Yours anxiously, Nick Yapp, London, SE8.

Sir,—You report (May 14) that the British Aerospace share offer was subscribed nearly 20 times, and quoted Marcus Agius, of Lazard Bros, as saying: "We are absolutely certain that we could not have got a higher price." Now (May 16) we learn that Ford UK last year suffered an operating loss of £14 million and as reward, its chairman has received a 67 per cent pay rise.

Is this what economists mean by the logic of the market?—Yours faithfully, Stuart Corbridge, Huddersfield, W. Yorkshire.

Sir,—I believe in a tolerant and understanding Labour Party in which all members are free to put their own point of view. I think that Mr Goodyer (Letters, May 16), one of our newer members, would concede that I have never discouraged him from saying exactly what he thinks.

There is, however, a world of difference between strongly held views forcibly expressed and wild inaccuracies of fact garnished with attempts to prove guilt by association. It really would have been much better if Mr Goodyer had checked his facts and allegations before writing his long letter to you.—Yours faithfully, John Silkin, MP, (Lab, Deptford), House of Commons.

How our A-level examiners are making the grade

Sir,—I am surprised to see how much misunderstanding of the present A-level system Charles Smith shows in his letter (May 11) despite his position as an admissions officer in a polytechnic.

His unsubstantiated allegations may well cause misunderstanding and concern among sixth-formers and others preparing for A-level examinations. There is little substance in any of his arguments put forward and I can reassure your readers categorically on the following points.

The GCE boards have systems for the careful monitoring of the work of individual examiners, which involve the scrutiny of samples of each examiner's marking by experienced chief examiners.

The prime concern of the examining boards and their senior examiners is to ensure comparability of standards from one year to the next. There is no question of the boards manipulating marks to reduce the proportions of candidates being awarded grades. If the quality of work rises, the level of awards rises with it and vice-versa.

Mr Smith's allegation that "examining boards made downward adjustments of about 3 per cent in each year to the raw marks they received from examiners" has no foundation in fact and he can produce no evidence to substantiate his suggestion.

Although the marks gained by candidates in an examination with a large entry tend to follow the pattern of a normal distribution, this is irrelevant to the allocation of grades. Mr Smith's letter shows a serious misunderstanding of the distinctions of marks and allocations of grades.

It is naive of Mr Smith to imply that if the examining boards were to award more higher grades there would be more places in higher education available. As your readers will be only too well aware, as the number of university places has declined, so universities have tended to require higher grades from applicants in order to restrict the number of entrants to line with the available places.

The GCE boards would never allow themselves to be used as agents for the restriction of entry to higher education in the way suggested by Mr Smith.

Use of terms such as "kangaroo courts" does nothing to increase understanding of the examination system. It is a pity that Mr Smith did not choose to consult the large body of information publicly available about the GCE examination before he launched his misguided assault.—Yours faithfully, Colin Vickerman, Joint Matriculation Board, Manchester.

Mining seams of the future

Sir,—Commonsense about coal is, as you say (Leader, May 16), overdue; and the launching of the Coalfield Communities Campaign deserves the positive welcome that you gave it. There is, however, a lot of ground to be gained before we can say that the threat to UK energy futures, implicit in the run-down of coal, has been overcome.

I argued, through your columns, during the strike, that the sacrifice of longer-term for shorter-term objectives had reached myopic proportions. The policy issues which underlie the strike are still to be resolved, but it is instructive that the return to sanity has begun.

Yours faithfully, (Lord) Somers, House of Lords.

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WEEKEND

SPORT

David Lacey on Manchester United's chances of stopping Everton's treble charge in today's FA Cup final at Wembley

Crying out for classic final



IF EVER there was a time when English football needed cheering up it is now and it ever a match was designed to fulfil that need it is today's FA Cup final at Wembley between Everton and Manchester United.

Sadly, the events of last Saturday cannot be erased. Whatever happens this afternoon the season just ending will always be associated with the Bradford fire just as 1988 will always be remembered primarily for the Munich air crash rather than the defeat of Matt Busby's patched-up United team in the final.

Nevertheless today's game gives football the chance to redeem itself in the eyes of those who have come to regard it as being more about hooligans and maverick chairmen than the world's most popular sporting entertainment. From the point of view of crowd behaviour the noisy good humour of the Everton fans in Rotterdam on Wednesday was a happy augury — hardly a surprise when one recalls the warmth of

Goodison's response to both of last season's Wembley finals.

In fact the last two FA Cup finals have been notable for an absence of rancour. The original 1983 encounter between Manchester United and Brighton was also an extremely good game of football which this afternoon's eagerly-anticipated confrontation will do well to equal.

That was the third successive FA Cup final to go to a replay. A lot of diary engagements will be disrupted if today's match fails to produce a result. Bobby Robson stands to lose six members of his England Squad for Wednesday's World Cup game in Finland if the final has to be decided back at Wembley the following evening.

It is going to be a close run thing, no-one doubts that. United's 5-0 defeat at Goodison Park last October scarcely seems relevant now, given the consistency acquired by Ron Atkinson's side since the new year. Then again Everton did visit Old Trafford three days later

and knock United out of the Milk Cup.

In their last 30 matches Everton have suffered only one defeat, at Nottingham Forest last Saturday when they were resting a few aches and strains between making sure of the League championship and brushing aside Rapid Vienna in Wednesday's Cup-Winners Cup final.

Both sides will be at full strength, that is with the exception of United's unlucky Moses. All that has to be resolved is the identity of the Everton substitute. This is likely to be Harper, a strong player on the right-hand side of the field, or Richardson, who replaced the injured Sheedy on the left in last year's final and made an important contribution to the defeat of Watford. As expected, Duxbury will be on the United bench.

Past Cup finals have suffered from too much tension but this should not be the case today. Everton are making their fourth Wembley appearance in just over a year with a team which has yet to

be beaten in the stadium.

Manchester are playing in their sixth Wembley final in 10 seasons and while only half-a-dozen of the 1983 team are in today's side, Olsen, Strachan and Gidman, who played for Aston Villa against Everton in the protracted 1977 League Cup final, are hardly new to major occasions. Hughes and McGrath have less experience but are already mature performers.

McGrath mastered Rush when United defeated Liverpool in the semi-finals. Hughes's goal for Wales when they recently beat Spain in the World Cup is surely the shot of the season. What a contrast there should be today if the young Welshman starts volleying the ball from shoulder height and Gray demonstrates his penchant for diving headers six inches from the ground.

The popular feeling seems

to be that United will win and thwart Everton's dreams of a treble just as they foiled Liverpool's threefold ambitions in 1977. In more than one instance the wish may be father to the thought.

United are the most entertaining team in the country — when they find the right blend and rhythm. Not only Old Trafford supporters would like to see the Cup won in exhilarating fashion.

Their players catch the eye because so many of them are prepared to run with the ball and pit their wits against opponents on an individual basis. Strachan is outstanding here but the instinct of every outfield player is to go forward and Gidman's charges up the right wing would surely win him the part of Teddy Sheringham should Old Trafford ever decide to stage Arsenal and Old Lace.

Clearly United have the means to win the Cup for the sixth time. But for every individual strength they can

offer Everton have the ability to match it. For Gidman read Stevens; for Albiston, Van Den Hauwe; for Robson and Whiteside, Reid and Bracewell; Strachan and Olsen/Steven and Sheedy; Stapleton and Hughes/Sharp and Gray.

In the other positions, goalkeeper and centre-backs, Everton look stronger. Southampton is consistently and at times spectacularly safe. Bailey makes brilliant saves but is inclined to be erratic.

Ratcliffe and Mountfield are the quickest pair of centre-backs in the First Division and Mountfield's capacity for scoring from free-kicks or corners should not be forgotten. Moran and McGrath look a more vulnerable combination than did Hogg and McGrath in the semi-finals.

If United are going to win they will probably have to do the bulk of the work before half-time. Strong second-half performances have been a feature of Everton's success this season.

Of course Robson, Hughes, Whiteside, Olsen or Strachan

can turn the 1985 final in one inspired moment. But Everton, who have not been short of inspiration lately, have the ability to keep going, to keep their shape and accuracy whatever the circumstances.

This may well bring them victory now and complete the treble but it is the uncertainty about today's match and the prospect of seeing so many accomplished players which will lighten everybody's step on the way to Wembley.

- EVERTON**
- 1 Southall
 - 2 Stevens
 - 3 Van den Hauwe
 - 4 Ratcliffe (Capt)
 - 5 Mountfield
 - 6 Reid
 - 7 Steven
 - 8 Sharp
 - 9 Gray
 - 10 Bracewell
 - 11 Sheedy
 - 12 To be named

- MANCHESTER UTD**
- 1 Bailey
 - 2 Gidman
 - 3 Albiston
 - 4 Whiteside
 - 5 Moran
 - 6 McGrath
 - 7 Robson (Capt)
 - 8 Strachan
 - 9 Stapleton
 - 10 Olsen
 - 11 Duxbury

Referee: P. Willis (Co Durham)

The Way to Wembley

EVERTON: Third Round: Leeds (2-0) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Fourth Round: Doncaster (1-0) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Fifth Round: Tottenham (1-0) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Sixth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Seventh Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Eighth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Ninth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Tenth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Eleventh Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Twelfth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Thirteenth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Fourteenth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Fifteenth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Sixteenth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Seventeenth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Eighteenth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Nineteenth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Twentieth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Twenty-first Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Twenty-second Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Twenty-third Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Twenty-fourth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Twenty-fifth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Twenty-sixth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Twenty-seventh Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Twenty-eighth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Twenty-ninth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Thirtieth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Thirty-first Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Thirty-second Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Thirty-third Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Thirty-fourth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Thirty-fifth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Thirty-sixth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Thirty-seventh Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Thirty-eighth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Thirty-ninth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Fortieth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Forty-first Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Forty-second Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Forty-third Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); 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Two hundred and ninety-second Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and ninety-third Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and ninety-fourth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and ninety-fifth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and ninety-sixth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and ninety-seventh Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and ninety-eighth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and ninety-ninth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundredth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and first Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and second Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and third Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and fourth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and fifth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and sixth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and seventh Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and eighth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and ninth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and tenth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and eleventh Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and twelfth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and thirteenth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and fourteenth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and fifteenth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and sixteenth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and seventeenth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and eighteenth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and nineteenth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and twentieth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and twenty-first Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and twenty-second Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and twenty-third Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); 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Two hundred and thirty-ninth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and fortieth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and forty-first Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and forty-second Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and forty-third Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and forty-fourth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and forty-fifth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and forty-sixth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and forty-seventh Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and forty-eighth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and forty-ninth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and fiftieth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and fifty-first Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and fifty-second Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and fifty-third Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and fifty-fourth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and fifty-fifth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and fifty-sixth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and fifty-seventh Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and fifty-eighth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and fifty-ninth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and sixtieth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and sixty-first Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and sixty-second Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and sixty-third Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and sixty-fourth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and sixty-fifth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and sixty-sixth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and sixty-seventh Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); Two hundred and sixty-eighth Round: Ipswich (2-2) (Sheedy, Sheedy); 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1985 Milk Race. The four-race series begins at Ipswich on May 30.

Leading Counsel can shake up the Derby

Richard Baerlein

The Airfile/Coolmore Irish 2,000 Guineas at the Curragh this afternoon has developed into a crucial Derby trial.

Vincent O'Brien's Leading Counsel, one-time favourite for the Ever Ready Derby, went off the ball when first he was beaten by Theatrical and then by a colt named Liddane.

However, after Law Society had won the Dalham Chester Vase for Vincent O'Brien the trainer made it clear that he could get Leading Counsel back to form he would represent a far better Derby proposition than Law Society.

The mile of today's race will surely be too short for Leading Counsel, but O'Brien adopted the same policy with Theatrical, who was unlucky to be beaten in this event, but then went on to win the Derby.

RICHARD BAERLEIN'S SELECTIONS: Map - Messon King (10). New best Golden Promise (Newbury, 3.0).

Provided Leading Counsel can put up a promising performance this afternoon he will challenge Slip Anchor for the position of Derby favourite, but there is no guarantee that the colt is anything like back to his best.

There will be four English challengers, the best of whom should be Mac's Reef. In his only outing to date he ran third to Slip Anchor and Flying Saucer in the Heathorn Stakes. He might also prefer a longer distance.

Frankie Durr runs Severn Bore, who won well over a mile at Kempton when finishing two lengths in front of Downing Street. Liddane, another English-trained runner, has always been rated highly by John Dunlop.

The form of that race, in which he beat Miami Court half a length, has not worked out particularly well, but there was plenty of improvement in Liddane. (David O'Brien is challenging his father with Triplich and it is very rare for a filly to run in this class. She ran seventh behind Oh So Sharp in the 1,000 Guineas.)

Paul Cole is sending Main Reason, but his horses this week have just missed out. I

would like to see Vincent O'Brien win with Leading Counsel for it would then make the Derby a more interesting event.

However, believing that a mile is well below his best, I doubt if Leading Counsel can pull it off. John Dunlop won the race with Wassl two years ago and I am inclined to support him again with Liddane, but it is a very open contest.

At Warwick this evening the much publicised match between John Shangeor and Lester Piggott for the Liquinator for the Walton Hall Duel of Champions takes place at 8.15 to enable Piggott to get back from Ireland.

The Liquinator requires soft ground and although it is a long time since he last won on the flat I believe the ground will not be against him and he should enable Piggott to beat the National Hunt champion.

At Newbury, where there is a 12 o'clock start to fit in with the Cup Final, I believe the Queen should win division two of the Shaw Maiden Stakes with Golden Promise, although Dick Hern's horses are some way from being in form.

The Winchester Handicap should chiefly concern All Agreed, Dawn's Delight, and Messon King. All Agreed had a bad draw at Lingfield last Saturday and no notice should be taken of his long time there. In 10th position this afternoon with 23 runners, he again has not the best of draws.

Messon King, drawn 20, has a considerable advantage. He has won two of his three races this season and the form of his latest effort is working out well. I make him the selection.

Gold And Ivory can credit Ian Balding and Steve Caughan with the Aston Park Stakes and Swift Palm can the Polar Jet. Apprentice

Paul Eddery gave Henry Cecil's Prismatic a fine ride in the Juddmonte Lockinge which he beat Miami Court half a length, has not worked out particularly well, but there was plenty of improvement in Liddane. (David O'Brien is challenging his father with Triplich and it is very rare for a filly to run in this class. She ran seventh behind Oh So Sharp in the 1,000 Guineas.)

This victory, worth over £29,000, was the most important in young Eddery's riding career. It took him a long time to find an opening, but inside the final furlong Prismatic went a neck clear.

Teleprompter never knows when he is beaten and he fought back strongly in the closing yards to be beaten a short head. This was a fine performance from Teleprompter, who was giving the winner 21 lbs.

Henry Cecil is in tremendous form at the moment and he completed a double in the following event when Steve Caughan rode his first winner of the season on Abba. The Abba was the stable's first runner. She has now won four races in succession and started at a reasonable price of 5-4 to win by three lengths.

In the following event Fayruz, winner of five consecutive races, started at 6-5 against to record his sixth victory. Bill O'Gorman is lucky to find in Fayruz another sharp two-year-old to follow footsteps of Providence, with whom he won 16 races last season.

Shadeed, the 2,000 Guineas winner who was backed for the Derby yesterday from 6-1 to 5-1, did a gentle workout with Immortal Dancer after racing at Newbury yesterday. His trainer, Michael Stoute, sent him there overnight to give him experience as all his races have been at Newmarket. Although he was playful before the gallop, Shadeed showed no signs of temperament. Stoute said: "He stayed very calm and that pleases me."

David Hadert on today's TV racing

Rent or Buy best

NEWBURY (BBC-1) 12.0 (5): LIKENESS has repeatedly been performing well on the gallop and could prove a tonic for his trainer Dick Hern, who is still recovering from his injuries in a hunting accident.

The market, however, could prove the best guide here. Meteor Miss followed up her Kempton success with a useful win at Warwick, but may have more to do.

12.30 (1m 3f): RENT OR BUY has gone up in the weights since winning a Kempton handicap early in the season, but his trainer, Clive Brittain, is confident enough to have championed the service of the champion jockey, Steve Caughan. The top-weight Leadburn must be respected now that Guy Harwood's stable is returning to form after a shutdown because of a virus. Cherry Hill began the season with a second at Art at Epsom and Pontefract but looks to have his share of weight here.

12.45 (1m 3f): RENT OR BUY has gone up in the weights since winning a Kempton handicap early in the season, but his trainer, Clive Brittain, is confident enough to have championed the service of the champion jockey, Steve Caughan. The top-weight Leadburn must be respected now that Guy Harwood's stable is returning to form after a shutdown because of a virus. Cherry Hill began the season with a second at Art at Epsom and Pontefract but looks to have his share of weight here.

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12.55 (1m 3f): RENT OR BUY has gone up in the weights since winning a Kempton handicap early in the season, but his trainer, Clive Brittain, is confident enough to have championed the service of the champion jockey, Steve Caughan. The top-weight Leadburn must be respected now that Guy Harwood's stable is returning to form after a shutdown because of a virus. Cherry Hill began the season with a second at Art at Epsom and Pontefract but looks to have his share of weight here.

13.00 (1m 3f): RENT OR BUY has gone up in the weights since winning a Kempton handicap early in the season, but his trainer, Clive Brittain, is confident enough to have championed the service of the champion jockey, Steve Caughan. The top-weight Leadburn must be respected now that Guy Harwood's stable is returning to form after a shutdown because of a virus. Cherry Hill began the season with a second at Art at Epsom and Pontefract but looks to have his share of weight here.

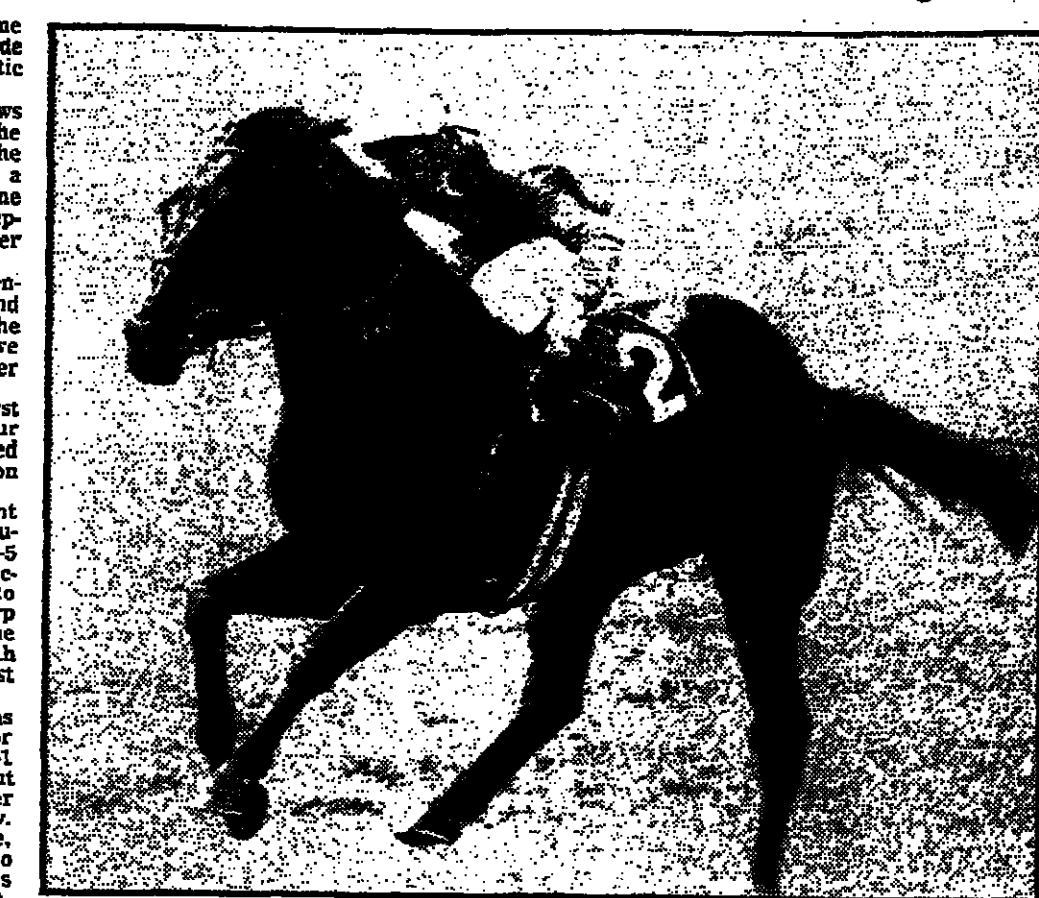
13.05 (1m 3f): RENT OR BUY has gone up in the weights since winning a Kempton handicap early in the season, but his trainer, Clive Brittain, is confident enough to have championed the service of the champion jockey, Steve Caughan. The top-weight Leadburn must be respected now that Guy Harwood's stable is returning to form after a shutdown because of a virus. Cherry Hill began the season with a second at Art at Epsom and Pontefract but looks to have his share of weight here.

13.10 (1m 3f): RENT OR BUY has gone up in the weights since winning a Kempton handicap early in the season, but his trainer, Clive Brittain, is confident enough to have championed the service of the champion jockey, Steve Caughan. The top-weight Leadburn must be respected now that Guy Harwood's stable is returning to form after a shutdown because of a virus. Cherry Hill began the season with a second at Art at Epsom and Pontefract but looks to have his share of weight here.

13.15 (1m 3f): RENT OR BUY has gone up in the weights since winning a Kempton handicap early in the season, but his trainer, Clive Brittain, is confident enough to have championed the service of the champion jockey, Steve Caughan. The top-weight Leadburn must be respected now that Guy Harwood's stable is returning to form after a shutdown because of a virus. Cherry Hill began the season with a second at Art at Epsom and Pontefract but looks to have his share of weight here.

13.20 (1m 3f): RENT OR BUY has gone up in the weights since winning a Kempton handicap early in the season, but his trainer, Clive Brittain, is confident enough to have championed the service of the champion jockey, Steve Caughan. The top-weight Leadburn must be respected now that Guy Harwood's stable is returning to form after a shutdown because of a virus. Cherry Hill began the season with a second at Art at Epsom and Pontefract but looks to have his share of weight here.

13.25 (1m 3f): RENT OR BUY has gone up in the weights since winning a Kempton handicap early in the season, but his trainer, Clive Brittain, is confident enough to have championed the service of the champion jockey, Steve Caughan. The top-weight Leadburn must be respected now that Guy Harwood's stable is returning to form after a shutdown because of a virus. Cherry Hill began the season with a second at Art at Epsom and Pontefract but looks to have his share of weight here.



DERBY HOPE: Leading Counsel has a key Epsom trial in today's Irish Guineas

BEVERLEY

11 45 Protection	1 45 Gods Law
12 15 Lord Jagged	2 15 Ribble Palace
12 45 Carolyn	2 45 Pyrotechnic
1 15 Jeldaire (nap)	3 10 Clippall
	3 35 Meritnes

NEWBURY (BBC-1)

1 (13) 1 PROTECTION (D) H. Cecil 9-1 Paul Eddery	1 (13) 1 PROTECTION (D) H. Cecil 9-1 Paul Eddery
2 (14) 0-1 FRANKA PUZZLE (D) M. Jervis 10-1 R. Lines	2 (14) 0-1 FRANKA PUZZLE (D) M. Jervis 10-1 R. Lines
3 (7) 1 METROPOLITAN STAR (D) C. Deakin	3 (7) 1 METROPOLITAN STAR (D) C. Deakin
4 (6) 0-1 ACCIDENT PRONE (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	4 (6) 0-1 ACCIDENT PRONE (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines
5 (10) 0-1 CHAIR WHEEL (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	5 (10) 0-1 CHAIR WHEEL (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines
6 (12) 0-1 FLEET SPECIAL (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	6 (12) 0-1 FLEET SPECIAL (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines
7 (14) 0-1 PEARL MIST (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	7 (14) 0-1 PEARL MIST (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines
8 (15) 0-1 PHOTOGRAPH (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	8 (15) 0-1 PHOTOGRAPH (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines
9 (16) 0-1 TENDER THOUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	9 (16) 0-1 TENDER THOUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines
10 (17) 0-1 ALACRITY (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	10 (17) 0-1 ALACRITY (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines
11 (18) 0-1 DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	11 (18) 0-1 DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines
12 (19) 0-1 DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	12 (19) 0-1 DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines
13 (20) 0-1 DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	13 (20) 0-1 DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines
14 (21) 0-1 DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	14 (21) 0-1 DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines
15 (22) 0-1 DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	15 (22) 0-1 DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines

12.30 (1m 3f): RENT OR BUY

1 (13) 1 PROTECTION (D) H. Cecil 9-1 Paul Eddery	1 (13) 1 PROTECTION (D) H. Cecil 9-1 Paul Eddery
2 (14) 0-1 FRANKA PUZZLE (D) M. Jervis 10-1 R. Lines	2 (14) 0-1 FRANKA PUZZLE (D) M. Jervis 10-1 R. Lines
3 (7) 1 METROPOLITAN STAR (D) C. Deakin	3 (7) 1 METROPOLITAN STAR (D) C. Deakin
4 (6) 0-1 ACCIDENT PRONE (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	4 (6) 0-1 ACCIDENT PRONE (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines
5 (10) 0-1 CHAIR WHEEL (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	5 (10) 0-1 CHAIR WHEEL (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines
6 (12) 0-1 FLEET SPECIAL (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	6 (12) 0-1 FLEET SPECIAL (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines
7 (14) 0-1 PEARL MIST (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	7 (14) 0-1 PEARL MIST (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines
8 (15) 0-1 PHOTOGRAPH (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	8 (15) 0-1 PHOTOGRAPH (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines
9 (16) 0-1 TENDER THOUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	9 (16) 0-1 TENDER THOUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines
10 (17) 0-1 ALACRITY (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	10 (17) 0-1 ALACRITY (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines
11 (18) 0-1 DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	11 (18) 0-1 DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines
12 (19) 0-1 DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	12 (19) 0-1 DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines
13 (20) 0-1 DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	13 (20) 0-1 DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines
14 (21) 0-1 DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	14 (21) 0-1 DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines
15 (22) 0-1 DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	15 (22) 0-1 DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines

12.45 (1m 3f): RENT OR BUY

1 (13) 1 PROTECTION (D) H. Cecil 9-1 Paul Eddery	1 (13) 1 PROTECTION (D) H. Cecil 9-1 Paul Eddery
2 (14) 0-1 FRANKA PUZZLE (D) M. Jervis 10-1 R. Lines	2 (14) 0-1 FRANKA PUZZLE (D) M. Jervis 10-1 R. Lines
3 (7) 1 METROPOLITAN STAR (D) C. Deakin	3 (7) 1 METROPOLITAN STAR (D) C. Deakin
4 (6) 0-1 ACCIDENT PRONE (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	4 (6) 0-1 ACCIDENT PRONE (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines
5 (10) 0-1 CHAIR WHEEL (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	5 (10) 0-1 CHAIR WHEEL (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines
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11 (18) 0-1 DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	11 (18) 0-1 DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines
12 (19) 0-1 DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	12 (19) 0-1 DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines
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15 (22) 0-1 DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	15 (22) 0-1 DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines

12.50 (1m 3f): RENT OR BUY

1 (13) 1 PROTECTION (D) H. Cecil 9-1 Paul Eddery	1 (13) 1 PROTECTION (D) H. Cecil 9-1 Paul Eddery
2 (14) 0-1 FRANKA PUZZLE (D) M. Jervis 10-1 R. Lines	2 (14) 0-1 FRANKA PUZZLE (D) M. Jervis 10-1 R. Lines
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4 (6) 0-1 ACCIDENT PRONE (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines	4 (6) 0-1 ACCIDENT PRONE (D) C. Deakin 9-1 R. Lines
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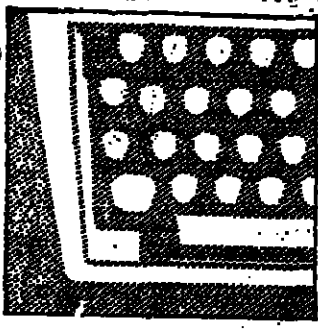
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DIARY

ANOTHER of Mrs Thatcher's whizz-kids has abandoned her. Norman Warner, under secretary at the DESS, shared with Clive Ponting the distinction of being invited to the Cabinet office to explain his ideas on cutting out Whitehall waste. Ponting tackled army catering; Warner the payment of pensions through banks. Neither scheme was adopted and we all know what Clive Ponting got for his later ethical efforts. Yesterday Mr Warner also quit the service to become director of social services in Kent. "I wouldn't say that I'm disillusioned," he said yesterday. "But I am attracted by the money, the better working conditions and more personal autonomy." Clive Ponting, meanwhile, has found a publisher for his next book, *Hamish Hamilton*. It will be set, he says, "within the framework of decline and failure in Britain." He promises that no other book has attempted to tell the inside story of government with such candour.

AN epidemic of ghostly proportions is, I fear, about to strike our legislators unless proper precautions are taken. How else to interpret a memo from Mr W. J. Smillie, the general manager of the House of Commons' refreshment department to all supervisors, head waiters and the executive chef? He warns them against "irresponsible" hygiene practices and advises that all persistent skin conditions should be reported to the resident nursing sister. "Situations anyone suffering from diarrhoea, vomiting, conjunctivitis or nose, ear and throat infections. I think are ought to be told before the snap general election."

TRIBUNE editor Nigel Williams decided to host a pre-Labour Party conference lunch and wanted a speaker from the newly re-aligned pro-Kinnock realistic Left. He wrote to the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy, some of whose erstwhile hard left members are supposed to be sliding in that direction. Campaign officer Dennis Skinner, the lunch has been indefinitely postponed.

AT HOME on Friday, June 7, at Highbury, London, Mr and Mrs R. Maxwell will be celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary. One invited guest who can't make it is Mr B. Matthews, managing director of News International, who is attending about a current falling out over Playboy publishing memoirs and unpleasant matters concerning m'learned friends.

THE Ministry of Defence is having to face further humiliation over the bungled Nimrod airborne early warning project. Way behind schedule because of faulty Marconi radar, the 11 planes will eventually cost around £1 billion, much as originally estimated. In the meantime the American version, the Boeing AWACS, is having to supply cover for the north east of Scotland from RAF Waddington in Lancs, as well as working out of their main Nato base at Gellenkirchen in West Germany. In recent weeks all 18 AWACS—the RAF's first preference until the British Aerospace-BAC-111s, first British lobby got going—have been flying in Britain.

THE OGB continues its profligate spending of money in confident anticipation of a favourable result to the Nisraeli B nuclear power station inquiry. This time it is advertising for a one-year research post at East Anglia University to work on the restoration of plant spectra likely to be disturbed by the development.

WE WERE a trifle premature to say that rent-a-quote frontman Peter Bruinvels was looking "unstoppable". Crossing the road from the House to his office in Dean's Yard he was knocked flying by a cyclist, bruising his ankle and damaging his back. But the indomitable combatant just managed to save his reputation. "There should be a proper zebra crossing at this spot which is regularly used by MPs at division times, and secretaries." Next time it might be a bus.

RATE-CAPPED Basilidon had to find cuts of £800,000 and the council wasn't going to savage its social services. So instead they have closed Billerica Lake Meadow swimming pool, one of the favourite leisure haunts of the middle classes. Cuningmoure.

David Pallister

I CROSSED into El Salvador from Guatemala at the Anguila border post, on a quiet road linking the Guatemalan backwater of Esquipulas with the Salvadoran backwater of Metapan. There were once silver mines in this part of Salvador, but the metal ran out, as it did in all the precious mines of Mexico and Central America. It was a Saturday afternoon, very hot. The bus dropped us on the Guatemalan side of the border, and we carried our bags through the heat towards the luxuriant blue and gold uniforms of the Salvadoran border guards.

The town I had left, Esquipulas, is one of those places famous to Central Americans and ignored by the rest of the world. It is a little town, almost a one-street town, which lives off the Black Christ guarded there since it was carved in 1594. My guide book described Esquipulas as a tourist centre. In fact it is a place of pilgrimage, rather different matter, and one of the pleasantest towns I visited. I arrived in the evening and went for a walk after dark.

There was a loud disturbance caused by a girl riding a large motorbike through the market, very slowly. Her drunken boyfriend climbed up behind her pushing her forwards until she was astride the petrol tank. Then they rode off abruptly, into the night, both wrestling with the handlebars. As they did so an older woman ran out of a nearby shop, shouting after her into the darkness, but too late.

Next morning, walking up the main street, I met a lawyer who said that he had seen two Italians in Esquipulas eight months before, otherwise no gringos in three years. He was very anxious for conversation. He was from Guatemala City but had come to Esquipulas "to get away from the death squads". It was safe in this part of Guatemala. "There are few Indians. So few communists." That was a joke.

The lawyer lived with a beautiful girl. He introduced her as his wife, and then told me, rather proudly, that they were not yet married, that she was in fin. He seemed the sort of man that might escape God's attention on the Guatemalan-Salvadoran border.

The lawyer had discovered by going through an old deed book that he and his "wife" had been related a hundred years before. He was proud of this, he hoped it would recommend her to his parents. He had a love of Spain and of history, and a record of looking at the ruins. He had become a foreigner in his own country.

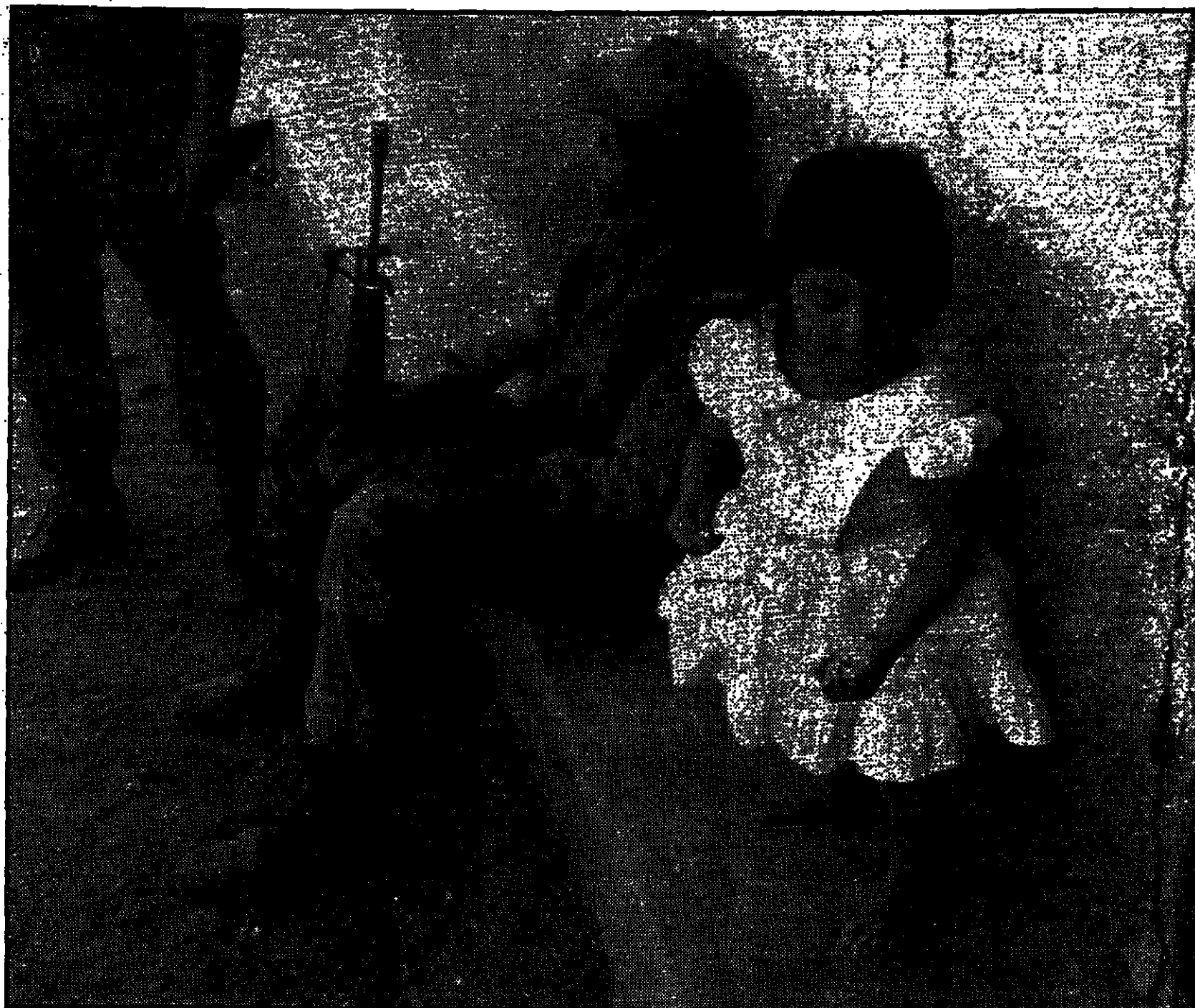
Earlier I watched the pilgrims, whom the lawyer distinguished from tourists at work in a Benedictine church at 6.30 in the morning. The monks sat on chairs scattered along the nave hearing confessions, amid the bustle of family groups arriving from all over Guatemala, as well as from El Salvador and Honduras. There were Indians kneeling, on the flagged floor setting up little shrines with candles and rosaries.

The women's costumes showed that they came from the villages of the Highlands. I recalled that in the Highlands it had been hard to think of the Indians as anything but political people. Whose side were they on? Were they siding with the British? Would they join the civil guard? How could one persuade them to talk about the army?

Here, out of journalistic context, they were just people on pilgrimage, excited and happy. Some of them had babies, carried in white cloths across their backs from head-bands, but suspended horizontally. The babies lay as though in hammocks. To soothe them the mothers, frequently teenagers, tossed their babies in the air, swinging them from the hips in semicircles.

After Mass there was the benediction, a local rite. The Indians lined up outside the church, and the monks, mostly from Louisiana, walked down the nave carrying large brushes and plastic buckets full of holy water, through dousing. The Indians became agitated if anything happened similar used to happen at night before the Church reformed its liturgy.

The previous evening I had watched as the shrine, abandoned by the monks for the night, was enthusiastically taken over, like shrines all over the world, by the



Companions in a Salvadoran village — picture by Jonathan Steele

Into the dark night of El Salvador

Patrick Marnham journeys to a town woken from its slumbers by gunmen

faithful. The blaze of candles around the Black Christ could be seen for half a mile down the street, framed in the gloom of the nave. The family parties arrived, knelt across the west doorway, and started singing the shrine's hymn. The old women waited like Muznins, then advanced on their knees into the building.

Inside, some wandered around chatting, others made directly for the ramp behind the altar which led up to the silver and crystal casket around the image. They touched and kissed and here they emptied their pockets.

After a while the empty hills began to give the impression that they were looking on: one was being watched.

When they left it after a few moments of prayer, patiently observed by those to come, they walked backwards down the ramp, eyes still fixed on the Cristo Crucificado. Such devotion can be seen all over Latin America — region which, according to its priests, contains a Church in crisis.

From Anguila I drove to Metapan in the back of an open pickup. By now it was late afternoon. Long shadows lay on the hills, chilling the collected heat that rose from the terrain.

In the truck there was a woman dressed in red with her husband and a small girl, and another woman, a stray pilgrim from Esquipulas. After a while the empty hills began to give the impression that they were looking on: one was being watched. This impression was supplied simply by the knowledge that I was in El Salvador.

Unarmed men with guns stopped the pickup and demanded to see papers. Their shoulder flashes said Border Police. As we drove on they started to insult each other roughly. One snatched a cigarette from the other's mouth. The open hostility was unusual. I wondered what was making them so irritable.

The pickup stopped again to let a country woman clamber up. She was brown-skinned and blue-eyed. She had a kind face, although I did not notice it for a while for fear of looking at her too closely. Beneath the face she had two throats.

The original throat was pushed to one side. Beside it a lump had formed which had grown in time parallel to her original throat and which from her chin to her shoulder, was just as thick. It must have been the world's largest goitre. We all avoided her gaze. She did not mind. Her expression remained kind.

The stray pilgrim, a heavy elderly woman, was perched on the wheel hub. There were no seats in the pickup. Twice she refused my offer of a seat on my case. We talked about her pilgrimage, about Santa Ana, about my journey. Nobody mentioned problems. Away from the hills, the wind rushing over the edge of the truck grew colder. The woman in red crouching opposite me allowed her foot to touch mine. She had gold teeth and thick black hair.

Her husband leaned forward and noticed her foot and suddenly stopped smiling at me. Our feet separated. Then her daughter fell over and we all laughed. There was an innocence and happiness in her face when she saw that I admired her child, which was quite different from the calculating friendliness there before. It made her look five years younger.

The thin woman was suddenly amiable and mothers of one child. The fat women were the same women three children later.

At Metapan, the pickup stopped at a bus station. I crossed the road and people called out in English, amused to see a gringo in this part of the world. The newspaper seller, an intelligent-looking European, unshaven and unkempt, made a joke of selling me a Spanish paper. The news that a gringo had arrived from Anguila spread up and down the street. Things must be looking up. "The situation" was improving. The bus from Metapan to Santa Ana was an express and only stopped when ordered to do so by the soldiers dug in at every road bridge.

I spent that night at Santa Ana's best hotel. The war

which has wrecked the economy of El Salvador has done so more obviously in this once pretty town than in other parts of the country. Paul Theroux visited it in 1973 and described Santa Ana as "a perfect place in its slumber, its coffee-scented heat, its jungle plaza, and in the dusty elegance of its old buildings".

Five years had changed all that. The hotel was run by a family of Spanish refugees from General Franco. They were from Bilbao, but had not seen their home since 1938. They had locked their hotel up like a fortress, and it remained locked up like that all day. I rang the bell in the steel door, and even a very, very old man in a greyish-white starched jacket opened it a crack.

A file of police kept close to the wall and checked the bolts of their rifles. They were stalking along the street as though it were a jungle.

Her mother talked of Barcelona when los rojos defended it. Their friends, now disappeared, were businessmen. They had a hotel. They were against the subversivos. The mother said, "When we came here I never dreamed that one day Spain would be the same as here. My life is here now." She did not say it, but she could hardly have dreamed when she left Spain that los rojos would become as much of a threat to her as Franco had been.

They told me it was safe to go out at night. I had heard of a casino in Santa Ana and I thought that I might spend a few colones. There was very little lighting in the streets around the Plaza Mayor. Eventually I found a bar which had not closed, and sat down to write my notebook. I was vaguely aware of several men at another table, watching me. The beer, added to the wine at dinner, made me feel rather sleepy. I started to wander back across the plaza in what I regarded as the

probable direction of the hotel. "Venga! Venga!" Outside the heavily-defended police station, on one side of the plaza, which was now quite deserted, the three men from the bar were sitting in the back of a truck. One of them snapped his fingers impatiently. They were dressed as civilians. They were quite confident that I would obey them. Somewhere in the darkness beyond the edge of the plaza there was a single shot. "Papers," they said. "Who are you?" Something seemed to have happened to the Hispanic tradition of courtesy. I remembered that I carried no papers.

"You're not a member of the press, are you?" said one. "The international press," said another. They asked again for my papers. I tried to look helpful. There was a small plastic wallet in my pocket. I pulled it out. It contained the record slip for my travellers' cheques. At least it was typed. The light outside the police station was not very good. I handed the wallet over and said it was my English identity card. One of them began to study it carefully.

"There is a curfew. Why are you out? Where are you staying?" I tried without success to remember the name of the hotel. Where is it? I pointed in what I hoped was the right direction.

The first man brandished the wallet. "Where is your identity card, where is your name?" I peered at the record slip. Ah yes, my name. He read it out carefully. "Thomas... Cook. Very well, Senor Cook, return at once to his hotel." Senor Cook was behaving very foolishly. I agreed and set off in the wrong direction. They called me back. They had to redirect me.

There were more shots as I left the plaza. A file of police started to walk past me. They kept close to the wall and checked the bolts of their rifles. They were stalking along the street as though it were a jungle. Is this what Paul Theroux had meant? Their behaviour seemed to me rather exaggerated. Then there was a blaze of light ahead. An armoured car came round a corner and was now lighting up the wall of a house. The police stopped moving. Seeing a lighted doorway to the right I decided to take refuge, passed through and found myself happily in the Casino. A waiter came forward to welcome me, everything was reassuringly normal at last. At the end of a long corridor I could see palm trees. A bar, men dressed in well-cut suits sitting at long tables, waiters. There was music playing somewhere.

Then it all started to go wrong. The welcoming waiter, another, very old man, was not so welcoming after all. "What do you want?" he said. "A drink." "But not here, senor. This is a club."

"This is the casino?" "Yes, senor, the Casino private club, but I looked quite distressed. I should not have been allowed to pass the door. Please, senor, you must leave." Outside the firing had started again.

Of course, I said. A private club, just like the usual ones. Rules, waiters, what old custom dictates. One never entered a private club uninvited. I was concerned to reassure the waiter: no one had noticed me come in. He looked at me gratefully, stepped back into the darkness and disturbance outside.

When I got back to the hotel, the Basques also looked relieved. They had heard that I was not usual, they said, as they looked us all in yet again. I slept badly that night. It was terribly hot but I did not want to open the window. And so the night was a nightmare of the Indian shrines ended in a stilled bedroom with the noise of army lorries changing gear, occasional shouts and gunshots, the sound of running feet.

I read later that four soldiers had been killed in an attack on the night. Three decapitated bodies had been recorded as having been recognised. Three other corpses had been taken to the Santa Ana mortuary and named.

This is an edited extract from Patrick Marnham's *So Far From Home*, a journey to Central America to be published on May 30 by Jonathan Cape, £9.95.

Worse, while in office it is not possible to give it up altogether and cutting down is notoriously more difficult than total abstinence. And, unlike other addictive substances, which are at least condemned by enlightened official documents exert such an influence over their victims that the feeling of guilt comes from restraint, not from excessive use.

I recall one cold evening during a temporary lull in the Cold War, when I sat in Reykjavik surrounded by despatch boxes which the Foreign Office had thoughtfully sent from London to help me pass my lonely hours. The boxes were filled with copies of telegrams which, while signed by High Commissioners and Ambassadors, were really telegraphed from one British mission to another by junior officials to junior officials. They dealt with such subjects as the price of citrus fruit in the Magreb and the implications of a lecture on neutrality given in Uppsala by a Soviet Academician. When, after a couple of hours, I turned to

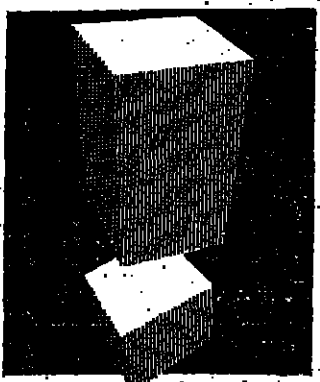
the embassy copy of The Mayor of Casablanca, I could not have felt more guilty if I had sold my wife to a sailor.

The General Election of 1979 liberated me from all that. And I do not propose, when official papers come my way, to give up the General Election of 1987 to become dependent on them again. I resist all temptation to construct a general, self-loving theory about being better at the job because of wider interests.

It may be that the best ministers know all about grapefruit in North Africa and lemons in Sweden. My problem is that I am simply running out of time. And I do not propose to allow Daniel Deronda or Buddenbrooks to escape me for ever. Had the BBC not made the serial, I would have lost the last 300 pages of Bleak House. But I have learned my lesson. I am now a 40-minute-a-day man for life. I have become dependent on the more by a Soviet Academician. When, after a couple of hours, I turned to

the embassy copy of The Mayor of Casablanca, I could not have felt more guilty if I had sold my wife to a sailor.

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ENDPIECE

Roy Hattersley

THROUGHOUT the next month the bulge that you notice in my jacket pocket will be made by Volume X of the Nelson Centenary Library's edition of the Complete Works of Charles Dick-

ons. I shall brush aside all references to my fastidious taste in fiction with the most vulgar of explanations for my conduct. It is, I modestly admit, the BBC series which inspired me to read Bleak House again. I feel the "again" to be essential to my literary reputation. So I shall emphasise it for as long as I can. But unfortunately it is only honestly appropriate until I reach a page somewhere in the low six hundreds. Years ago, after moving from Mr. Tullingham's Rooms to Mr. Tullingham's Chambers between chapters 41 and 42, I gave Bleak House up.

I cannot quite establish the date when I dropped out of the literary marathon. But I believe that I can offer the excuse of extreme youth with some justification. It is clear that I began to read Bleak House before the age of 14 — the year to heaven during which I started to like the Labour Party seriously. For it was not until my reading reacquainted me with Mrs Jellyby (who has been written out of the tele-

vision serial as if she were a Crossroads character) that I realised how many Mrs Jellybys, sitting in a nest of waste paper and drinking coffee, I meet in a year of party business.

All parties have variations on the same activist theme — ladies of "very remarkable strength of character" who devote themselves "entirely to the public". The Conservative Party certainly possesses one of great distinction, as I was reminded by the answer to Esther Summerson's inquiry about the paragon's husband. "I don't know that I can describe him to you better than by saying that he is the husband of Mrs Jellyby."

The insult — if indeed insult it be — is not gratuitous. For the disgrace of finding myself numbered amongst the ranks of those who have not previously read Bleak House from start to finish has provoked me into all sorts of dangerous ruminations about the disadvantages of the obsessively political life.

Perhaps the "Bleak House

Test," as it will be known to future generations of literary psychologists, is unfairly exacting. For 328 pages demand a great deal of stamina from any professional. I have set myself the target of 30 pages a day, which — allowing time for turning over (both pages and self in bed), scratching and numerous other activities which interrupt the flow of Dickens' prose — will absorb 40 minutes in each of my 24 hours. It will thus take me a methodical and determined month to read from start to finish. The plot is complicated but the language is simple. After all, it was written for a class of readers whom Mrs Jellyby would have despised. But it is impossible to race through Bleak House with a literary sprinter's joy. And for most of my political life, my problem has been finding the time for a quick jog once round the track of a new paperback.

When, almost 30 years ago, I gloried in the grandeur of a joint parliamentary under-secretary of state, I actually

used to boast that I "Never read a novel these days." There was the occasional quick and furtive piece of poetry read in the guilty privacy of the lavatory. The Christmas present biography was completed before New Year's day in the reassuring knowledge that, being about a politician it was really part of my ministerial education. But a whole new wave of novels simply washed over me. I feel no great sense of deprivation at having been denied Zen And The Art Of Motorcycle Maintenance. But I feel sure that there are other titles which I would be sorry to have missed, if I knew what they were.

But in those bad old days I believed that my duty lay with typewriters labelled "restricted" or "confidential" which boasted titles that make Zen And The Art Of Motorcycle Maintenance seem irresistibly enthralling. The period of rehabilitation was slow and painful. For there is no Official Documents Anonymous to help addicts kick the habit.

Worse, while in office it is not possible to give it up altogether and cutting down is notoriously more difficult than total abstinence. And, unlike other addictive substances, which are at least condemned by enlightened official documents exert such an influence over their victims that the feeling of guilt comes from restraint, not from excessive use.

I recall one cold evening during a temporary lull in the Cold War, when I sat in Reykjavik surrounded by despatch boxes which the Foreign Office had thoughtfully sent from London to help me pass my lonely hours. The boxes were filled with copies of telegrams which, while signed by High Commissioners and Ambassadors, were really telegraphed from one British mission to another by junior officials to junior officials. They dealt with such subjects as the price of citrus fruit in the Magreb and the implications of a lecture on neutrality given in Uppsala by a Soviet Academician. When, after a couple of hours, I turned to

the embassy copy of The Mayor of Casablanca, I could not have felt more guilty if I had sold my wife to a sailor.



Wates houses at Hurst Green: one bedroom, £30,000; three bedrooms, £50,000.

Get on your own bike, Mr Tebbit

Vacancies for fabricator welders.
Pictures by Susan Thomas.

THIS has become an all too common story of working folk. Of job losses and silt vac. of 19 per cent unemployed on Merseyside and 4.5 per cent in the Surrey commuter belt. Of the North South Divide and what happens to those enterprising souls who take their leaders' advice and get on their bikes. And a pretty rum do it is.

Consider the saga of Sam and Graham and John. But first consider the plight of Ajax Magnethermic. Ajax at Hurst Green is one of those firms so dear to government hearts, on which the future of the country depends. Small, even smaller since it shed 30 per cent of its skilled workers. It builds superheating induction furnaces for the steel industry. And suddenly business is booming. Orders from Italy, China, Norway, and Germany. Fill the book. Every order has tight deadlines. Every deadline carries penalty clauses. And speed is of the essence. Get it right and the turnover will triple. Get it wrong and it doesn't bear thinking about.

The problem is that once

laid off, the 30 skilled welders had simply faded away and the adjacent towns — Orsted and Westerham and Brasted — boast more merchant bankers than men of iron. Local job centres drew a blank and in desperation the company set up a nationwide jobsearch. Job centres in the Wirral, the West, the North-east, and Scotland carried the ad and 250 men replied.

So far so good, because the Government has made provision for the movement of labour, fares paid for interviews, relocation allowances up to £1,600, and the National (council house) Mobility Scheme.

A member of the management trekked up to Wallasey, Stockton, and Glasgow, and interviewed the more likely lads. Thirty were invited down for welding tests and seven got jobs. And the rest?

"Their letters were heart-breaking," says Hester Davies, the company secretary who organised it all. "They came from men who hadn't worked for years and didn't expect to work again. Most didn't even expect a

reply." She wrote to every one and passed their details on to other companies in the area. "There is an appalling lack of skilled people down here," she said.

In the meantime she found digs for the lucky ones, who waved goodbye to their nearest and dearest and moved in. And that, you might think, would be the end of their troubles. Not so. They had still to find out about the housing trap, and the jarring social realities of the Watford gap. And in a matter of weeks two of the seven had gone, dismissed for lack of commitment and work ethic. Yet they represented the cream of the applicants, the top 2.6 per cent of the available workforce. So what went wrong?

Pay, say Ajax, is in line with union rates — "£3 an hour and plenty of overtime." There's no denying the beauty of the countryside, and the factory seems pleasant enough. Light, airy, and a far cry from some of the horrors of Northern industry.

"For me it's the cost of housing," said Sam Robinson.

52, a foreman welder from British Steel (Shotton) who had thought he was there for life till Butcher MacGregor arrived. He left a wife and a nice house in Wallasey. "But house prices down here are two to three times what they are at home. I'd have to pay £50,000 at the very least for what I've got up there. And while prices in the Wirral are going down, they're still going up in the South-east."

Sam doesn't give up easily. "After 2½ years on the dole, losing touch with your mates, finding that without a job you don't amount to much, I'm not keen to lose this one. The wife's coming down for a holiday and we'll look around, see what we can find. £30,000 should buy a nice little one bedroomed flat."

At least he has something to bargain with. John Wharton, in his thirties, has nothing. Unemployed for six years, he left a wife and three kids behind in the Wirral when he came down. A cheerful adaptable sort, he settled into village life, got involved with the football team, joined the

British Legion, and waited for the National Mobility Scheme to work for him.

Under the scheme his own council "nominated" him for a council house in his new area. Tansbridge council offered "a miserable three bedroomed flat, in very poor repair, in a cul-de-sac backing on to the barracks." "Almost as though they hoped he wouldn't take it," said Hester Davies. He didn't. And noticed too late the small print saying that no second choices were available. Ajax and Mr Wharton are currently discussing the matter with the council.

"It seems stupid," he said. "There's work here for people like me. When I came to London I registered with several Job Centres and I've been offered about ten jobs since. At home you get 200 people trying for one job. I'd advise anyone to do the same. But it's no use if the government doesn't build the houses for people to go where the work is."

And Graham. He is 23. A bright lad and a coded welder who did his time with Cam-

mell Laird. He comes from Birkenhead and just to listen to him requires close attention from a southern ear.

"Snor easy tarkin to people downear," he said. "It's woleway and cumagin all the time. And beer's around £1 a pint. If you 'ave to send money 'ome as well as payin digs (£40-£50 a week) there's nothin left fer yerself."

"What's more — they don't know nothin about hardship, about the poverty on Merseyside. They're nearly all right Tories. It makes you sick to hear an ark, I never understood about the North South divide till I came downear."

The other lads, the ones who left, just couldn't take it, he said: the local attitudes, the loneliness, the cost of living, the impossibility of housing. Not surprising they didn't have the commitment. It's very lonely when people can't understand you, he said.

And then I tried some of the other companies in the area. How did they find the availability of skilled workers?

Just down the road in Eden-

bridge, Ray Buttifant of Walker Mainstay fairly exploded. "Skilled man!" he said. "I don't need skilled people. All I want is someone with two arms, two legs, and a head. We'll train them. It's basic factory work, using power presses and fly presses, so they've got to be responsible. But no, it's not dead-end dull. They have to be able to set up the tooling and be adaptable."

He's tried the local agencies, the press, the job centres, but neither unskilled labour at £30-£100 a week, nor skilled at £130 can afford to move into the area, and the bus and train services are both expensive and inadequate, he says. So he's still four men short, and it's the same story all round.

Roscoe and Howard, next door, a company making drilling rigs and with export opportunities in Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and Libya, had 200 applicants when they advertised for two welders and one hydraulic fitter — but none of them was a local. So none of them could come.

"The trouble lies with the housing authority who can't or won't do anything for us," said Mr Buttifant.

Bedside manners I
by Harry Whewell

Stool pidgin English

A GENERATION AGO children were slapped for saying it, adults shrank from it in mixed company, and you never heard it on the telly before the late night film. Nowadays it is in common currency from breakfast TV on, your maiden aunt may bring it out with a flourish to win a hand of Scrabble, and kids who obviously avoid it may find themselves hurried off to the psychiatrist. In fact the only ones who shy away from this four letter word for one of the body's most important functions are those most concerned with it — doctors, nurses, consultants, and physiatrists.

I can still remember quite vividly the scene when the most common medical euphemism first made its mark on me. My wife and I were gazing in the traditional rapture at our week old first born when the district nurse arrived. She peered through her rimless glasses at the puny, pink form, was obviously unimpressed alike by its limpid blue eyes and its serene smile and quite failed to notice that there was a tiny, perfectly formed, shell-like nail at the end of all she said was "Has he passed a motion today?"

I was attending a lot of trade union conferences at the time and the idea linking that tiny frame in any way — however tenuous — with the likes of Ernie Bevin or Ted Hill or Will Lawther was so ludicrous that I was stricken speechless. Afterwards I thought of one or two bright rapiers I might have made like "Yes, nem con", or "No, it got lost in the compositing committee". I even doped out a bit of a song for when it was my turn to change the nappies. "Oh Shenandoah he's passed a motion". But all this came later. At the time I could manage no more than a suppressed giggle.

Two or three spells in hospital recently suggested that this has not moved on much in the intervening twenty years. They may have got worse. The nurses asked about my motions; the doctors were apparently under the impression that I had given up motions and was now passing stools instead. Older now, and perhaps even wiser, I was not tempted to waste time on jokey responses. All possible ones must have been made already and had clearly made no impression. Instead I fell to wondering why twentieth century doctors with so much skill and science behind them should want to address worried and confused patients in the language of medieval quackery. And, moreover, whether there might not be a price to pay for this anachronistic habit.

Misunderstanding must surely be commonplace. How many true born Englishmen — let alone recent immigrants — could instantly equate stool with motion because centuries ago people used to sit on stools when passing motions — always assuming, of course, that they knew what motion was in the first place. Further, if a teenage actress in a peak hour soap opera can cry out "Oh, shit" when she breaks her finger nail on her filing cabinet, is there any reason why a doctor in the privacy of his consulting room should not ask a patient with severe stomach pains "When did you last have a shit?"

And before I finish with this theme, can I briefly move on from words to pictures? There are patients who, having undergone surgery, never get round to asking just which bit of them has been cut up or cut out. There are others who ask but are not told, and others again who ask, are told, but only dimly comprehend. The plight of the first two speaks for itself; can I here put in a word for the third, since it includes me.

Many surgeons trying to explain what they have done or are about to do quickly lose patience with words and resort to pictures. Commonly they will produce from their pocket an old envelope and a ballpoint and, sketching away on their knee or some passing nurse's back, make your colon resemble a squashed earwig and reduce their three hours' labour in the operating theatre to a dotted line drawn through it. As an explanation it hardly does justice to anyone concerned, and there is another, better way.

I repeatedly pray they never will — to show the route taken by the Manchester Ship Canal. I could, I suppose, make some sort of effort to delineate Manchester, Liverpool, and even Runcorn on the back of an old job ticket. But I would do the bookcase and look out an accurate and immediately comprehensible map of Lancashire and Cheshire. Equally good maps of the colon and have been around for years. Is there some good reason why doctors are so reluctant to use them?

SEATS IN ALL PARTS

This may be British Film Year but we don't need a cinema any more to see a movie, as Richard Kelly said to the man who runs a unique co-operative cinema in North Yorkshire. Pictures of the Regent and, right, Jeff Edwards and son Simon, by Denis Thorpe.

THIS, in case you missed the announcement, is British Film Year, an event celebrated principally in the metropolis. Ripples of it have not yet reached Redcar, a small seaside resort on the North Yorkshire coast which has seen better days. This is a pity, because there is a little picture house on the front, propped up on stilts with the waves of the North Sea lashing the back of the screen, which has one or two lessons to teach the lusher and plusher houses on the main circuit.

Messrs Attenborough and Putnam have spoken of an increase in attendances of between 50 and 65 per cent, albeit on last year's record low base. At the Regent Cinema, Redcar, the base was even lower — like zero when it re-opened two and a half years ago "under new management", as they say, after being closed for nine months. Jeff Edwards, the chairman of Cleveland Cinema Co-operative, which now runs it, well remembers the situation at that time. "Cinemas were closing all around us. The ABC in Middlesbrough closed just before we opened, that was a triple cinema, and the Odeon looked shaky. It was beginning to seem as if people who wanted to see big screen films would have to go forty miles or more

to Newcastle, which is ridiculous. We were facing a situation where a million or more people wouldn't have had a cinema."

So the Cleveland Cinema Co-operative was formed. A bit of a misnomer, Mr Edwards confesses, because there are only two working co-operators, the manager and the projectionist, the rest being part-time cleaners and ushers who are "not interested in that aspect of it. But it is non-profit making and run by a board of management recruited from local cultural interests, the law, education, and radio."

Edwards himself is an enthusiastic and articulate 56-year-old steeped to the soul in cinema. He runs the Regent in his spare time (he is a lecturer at the local technical college), "not without difficulties but totally without subsidies, unless you count a fifty per cent rate rebate pending recognition as a charity. It is not that he is against subsidies for the arts but experience has left him scarred. "I had six years of running a BFI regional cinema in Middlesbrough. That eventually closed, largely because the subsidising bodies squabbled among themselves and the cinema collapsed. Anyway, I think cinemas should be able to pay

for themselves on our kind of operation."

And what kind of operation is that? Well, to begin with, the Regent is not an art house. "We try to bring the best of the latest commercial releases to Redcar and use the money we make on that to show films of less popular appeal — Sunday Specials like Harry and Son, The Big Chill, Daniel, Verity, which haven't come to the Cleveland area for one reason or another."

One of the reasons why they haven't come to the Regent lies in the distributing system and its bawling clauses (i.e. restrictive practices). "We not only can't show a film until it's been shown, say, at the Odeon in Middlesbrough ten miles away, we can't show it until they've made up their minds whether they want it or not." This sort of hold up nullifies the value of the publicity accruing to a London release. The complaint is as old as the film industry itself but the practice is becoming increasingly pernicious. "The Dresser wasn't shown on the main circuit in this area but by the time we could get it we could only put it on as a Sunday Special." Worse still, it might have been shown on TV or made available on video cassette.

At this point you're probably thinking there's a good

economic reason for this, namely that the distributors let small houses have films for next to nothing. Not so. Since the Regent opened, they have made over £100,000 for the distributors. The basic rate is 25 per cent of takings; 50 per cent for a popular success; and 90 per cent of takings over £3,500. At the moment they are waiting to show The Killing Fields. By the time a copy is available, the publicity surrounding it will probably have evaporated and there may even be a video on the market. This, Edwards claims, is a particular problem with British films to which British Film Year might address itself.

The Regent is a cosy cinema. Your connoisseur of the genre will much prefer it to the multi-studio city-centre emporium with its choice of cubicles, reminiscent of nothing more than the celebrated Parisian bistro, the Sphinx (without the improbability, of course, which takes place only on the screen). This establishment, the more cosmopolitan among you may remember, was at one time much patronised by members of the government, with the result that the girls' boudoirs were labelled "Department of Foreign Affairs," "Ministry of War," "Internal Security," "Hygiene and Public Health," etc.

The Regent eschews such perfumed delights and has a wholesome smell of the old picture house about it. But that's as far as it goes. Everything else is up to date. Out have gone a number of seats to improve the sight lines, a frequent cause of complaint. Raymond Chandler tells a story about a friend who went to the pictures and had his view obstructed by a bear. He tapped its owner on the shoulder. "Pardon me, sir, but do you think this is a proper place to bring a bear?" he inquired primly. "Why not?" the owner replied, "he enjoyed the book."

Sound as well as sight is the preoccupation at the moment. Stereo sound, of course, which many people take for granted in their homes. By the end of the year I hope to fulfil my dream of showing Walt Disney's Fantasia which is only available in stereo sound. On many films it says "Dolby sound in selected cinemas." I want the Regent to be one of those selected cinemas.

There is only one snag. Neither the banks, nor the public agencies set up to provide capital, will lend us any money. Despite the fact we have a turnover of £150,000 a year, our bank borrowing is limited to £1,500. So we have to raise our money ourselves by getting bottoms on to seats.

Picking up the threads of cinema in a place like Redcar is no easy task. To start with, there is the legacy of the pre-television years when people used to queue up in their thousands, sometimes in their hundreds, sometimes in their thousands, for the pictures every night of the week after six o'clock and got some pretty rough and ready treatment for their pains, usually at the hands of some low budget Napoleon in gold epaulettes and ankle length military overcoat, employed by the management to strut up and down the foyer and keep the hot pollen in order. There are some cinemas in which still think we are living in that age. Not so at the Regent, where manager or chairman or both bid the patrons goodnight and invite their comments on the show. The same patrons have dug into their pockets and voluntarily contributed around £1,000 a year to the development fund.

But when all is said and done, isn't it simpler and altogether more satisfactory just to buy or rent a video cassette and watch the film in the comfort of your own home with a drink at your elbow? The affable Mr Edwards is glad I asked that question. "I believe people want to go out, despite satellite broadcasting and cable television and so on. Seeing a film on a big screen with an audience is a

totally different experience from seeing it in your own home, provided we supply the right sort of product at the right price with the best technical quality."

Could he be more precise about this "totally different experience"? He could. "I watched Trading Places with an audience here — a very funny film. I thoroughly enjoyed it. I watched it again at home on video. It was still enjoyable but you totally miss being gathered up in the humour and laughter the audience can give you. And you miss the total visual impact. Look at a film like Alien in Cinemascope. It was quite impressive on the big screen. I tried to watch it on television and it was ridiculous. Parts of it were missing anyway because you've got the cut-off on the edges of the screen. Raiders of the Lost Ark on television at Christmas was ludicrous. Even my grandchildren turned it off. Yet really it wasn't a bad film."

"Cinema is a totally different aesthetic experience. If you want to know why I'm involved in cinema, that's it. I want my grandchildren to grow up and get the kind of pleasure out of going to the pictures that I got when I saw The Ghost Goes West at the age of five at the New Vic at Bradford."

Can Labour exercise patience with its new bank to avoid another De Lorean?



SATURDAY NOTEBOOK

WHEN BANKS are not pouring money into fringe banks that go bust in property crashes or into bankrupt Latin American countries they seem to be lending to California vineyards just before they are drowned in the overvalued European wine lake. The dedicated followers of fashion in Lombard Street may be behaving in the same herd like way

with their huge new investments in the securities markets. The key to whether the Labour Party plan for a National Investment Bank will work is therefore whether its originators think through the process by which banks make mistakes. Look at the record, and it appears that banks are too often for comfort not very good at lending other people's money. A state-owned bank is not going to be immune to this problem. Banks are just like the rest of us, in that they are swept along by the economic tide of recessions and oil price rises. But they are also victims of fashions every bit as ephemeral as the clothes in the windows at Next. Since the end of banking restrictions in the early 1970s, British banks can plenty of foreign ones too, seem unerringly to have sought out the trouble spots of the world and put their money there. For much of that time they felt under tremendous pressure to lead

the money rolling into their coffers from their huge branch networks and from Opac oil surpluses. They talked incessantly about loan marketing, and salesmen roamed the world pushing credit like other people marketed Coca-Cola, until it all went sour three years ago. Twenty years ago, ordinary people had to plead with a bank manager for a loan, but now as long as it is a personal loan at 24 per cent or a fast loan secured mortgage it is the bank manager doing the selling. The root of bad banking is bad lending, and the usual reason for that is a sudden expansion of capacity to make loans, beyond the abilities of the managers. Big loans are easy to process, and Brazil probably would have got more than a lot easier than an electrical firm in Slough. But at both ends of the scale lending needs an expertise which is glaringly obvious from the number of times it is repaid and the loans are not repaid.

There are several current examples of what a long struggle it is to build up a cadre of people able to lend money sensibly. One is the Trustee Savings Bank which has taken more than a decade to convert itself into a full commercial bank from an arm of National Savings. It still retains huge amounts of unproductive capital. The main question hanging over its future is whether its managers will be able to cope sensibly with the £1 billion or so the stock market sale will bring into the bank. The clearing banks have also proved slow learners at the business of making the more entrepreneurial kind of loan, to fast growing businesses, something they claim to do better at now. But it is skill they only really started to develop in the 1970s. Investors in industry, which Labour has signalled could be the core of the NIB, is an even better example. It has grown slowly and

steadily over decades precisely because its managers have resisted the fashions for rapidly increasing balance sheets and quick realisations of investments, the qualities which make it so attractive to Mr Roy Hattersley. With investments and loans last year of £1.6 billion, it remains a pretty small institution by City standards. It could grow much faster by running with the herd, telling every executive to lend twice as much each month and selling doubtful equity investments before they have been given a chance to prove themselves. Then it would be just like any other bank. It has in fact taken 31 years to double its loans and investments, and its staff of under 700 are comparable only with a medium sized merchant bank. So if the Labour Party is after special expertise the first thing to acknowledge is that it cannot be fostered like rhubarb. To build

up a major new banking institution with, say, £5 billion invested from one with a £1 billion out on the market would probably take the whole of the life of a government and well into its second term. The risk of speed is that a good idea will be brought down by a De Lorean or two. People who are genuinely good at lending long term, and especially to entrepreneurs, are unlikely to be cheap, and they will not wear Labour hair shirts while they are doing the job. To expand its NIB, Labour will need to pay City salaries. Labour's two previous intervention bodies, the Industrial Reorganisation Corporation of the 1960s and the National Enterprise Board of the 1970s were both beginning to show quite respectable records in their later years. The amazingly young men who ran the IRE - 28-year-olds lecturing company chairman and getting away - made mistakes. But

by the time it was axed they were developing an expertise respected enough to see many of the men into top industrial and City jobs. The NEB messed up a few projects, such as office automation, though Inmos defied the critics and survived. The NEB, too, was becoming quite good at its job by the time it was neutered by the Conservatives for ideological reasons. Inmos's funding problems were finally solved when it was absorbed into Thorn EMI, whose share price promptly dropped. This was a splendid example of what the governor of the Bank of England meant in a speech earlier this week which was well timed for Mr Hattersley. Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton acknowledged that the City is suspicious of technology investment, sometimes understandably, for example when a stodgy company suddenly surges out on hi-tech to make up for past failings. Equally, entrepreneurs

with a good track record and a fashionable go-go share rating can drop out of fashion overnight as happened to Micro Focus this week, when a basically sound company wildly missed its profits targets. Or, Sir Clive Sinclair, a man with resounding successes enough to overshadow the failures, has to look overseas for finance because City institutions are feeling jaded with him. These are real financing gaps, and Labour's NIB could have a role. But this type of lending requires more expertise than virtually any other form of banking. As the governor said: "I do have a concern that there are very real pressures which lead, and will continue to lead, financiers to take short term views." For a bank to take any other view, and build up a portfolio of development loans rather than cheap cash for big companies, would be a 10-year slog with no short cuts. Peter Rodgers

Computer leasing company coming to the market on May 30

IBL sale expected to raise at least £85 m

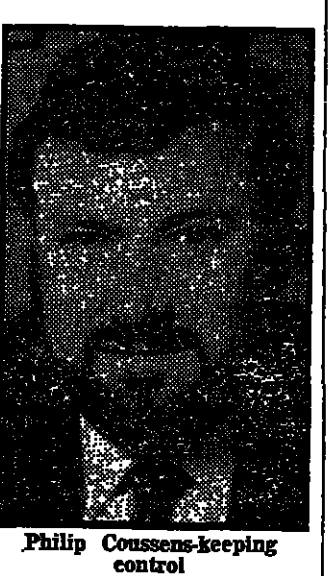
By Tony May

Philip Coussens is going to be worth between £58 million and £80 million when his computer leasing company IBL is offered for sale on May 30. Barclays Merchant Bank is fine tuning the issue which is expected to capitalise the company at between £85 million and £100 million on the stock market. The industry is reckoned to be growing at around 30 per cent a year as the mighty IBM expands its market share across the globe. Mr Coussens' group claims to be among the top three in the business in most of the 20 countries it operates in and is number one in Holland and Portugal. Last year the strength of its overseas business really started to pay off, pushing sales up from £97.8 million to £153.2

million while profits more than doubled from £3.3 million to £7.5 million. Mr Coussens says that this growth has continued into the current year. He is not forecasting profits for 1985 but says that demand has increased substantially in the first three months in virtually all the countries IBL trades in. "A substantial number" of customers have signalled their intention to upgrade equipment to take advantage of a new range of IBM processors which are to be delivered this year. So far the group has financed itself through cash flow and bank borrowings, but the £15 million or so to be raised through the offer for sale is earmarked for further expansion. The full quotation is also seen as status enhancing and a good way of rewarding employees.

At least a quarter of the equity is to be floated, and while details have yet to be finalised directors and employees are expected to end up with 15 per cent of the total equity. Mr Coussens currently has 80 per cent of the group and plans to keep overall control. If all this snacks of hi-tech growth (with slump around the corner) it should be remembered that computer lessors are outside the computer hot house and are more like component distributors. Leasing majors on the stock market, like Atlantic, Comcap, Dataserve, and United Leasing have P/E ratios ranging from 14 to 20. IBM's dominance is not seriously in doubt and its

acolytes are rated accordingly. IBL sees its strength as lying in its overseas operations. The UK - which is perhaps the most competitive market in Europe - accounted for just 18.6 per cent of 1984 turnover, the rest of Europe 6.82 per cent and the US 13.2 per cent. In profit terms the UK accounted for 17 per cent, Europe 73 per cent and the US 10 per cent. Micro Focus is keen to put things right with the City which slashed its share price from 120p to 170p on day. It is expected to recruit a top-notch finance man soon to replace Mr Roger Friedberger who has left the group - although the board is not blaming him for its mistakes. The group's shares rallied to 400p yesterday but closed at 390p.



Philip Coussens-keeping control

C&W gets US fibre-optic link go-ahead

By James Ertichman

Cable & Wireless won approval in Washington yesterday to plug its trans-Atlantic fibre optic cables into the United States. The ruling by the US Federal Communications Commission gives Cable & Wireless the right to compete against a British Telecom AT&T consortium which expects to complete its own fibre optic link at least a year earlier. The Cable & Wireless chairman, Sir Eric Sharp, described the ruling as "magnificent". But the US group, which will split the £450 million cost of the project with its US partner, Tel-Optik, knows it has a fight on its hands to make it pay. Cable & Wireless remains locked in a legal wrangle with British Telecom over the right to plug freely into BT's domestic network through its Mercury subsidiary. Cable & Wireless shares fell 25p yesterday to 675p. Fibre optics will replace the

ageing co-axial cables which now carry telephone and computer transmission across the Atlantic. They offer greater clarity and security and can also carry television signals. The British Telecom AT&T fibre optic cable from New York will split mid-ocean to connect both the UK and France. Cable & Wireless and Tel-Optik plan two parallel cables which will only link the United States and Britain. The first should be laid and switched on by June, 1989, with the second, more southerly fibre optic cable to follow in the early 1990s. British Telecom and AT&T are expected to complete their Y-shaped link first. But Cable & Wireless says it is aiming primarily at the business market to which it will offer long term contracts with fewer increases in the tariff. Each cable will carry three fibre pairs able to carry a total of 12,000 voice circuits.



MIDLAND Bank has appointed John Brooks (above), deputy group chief executive, to head the integration of Midland and Crocker National, the troubled California bank which will become 100 per cent owned in the near future. Mr Brooks' full-time job will be to bring together the international operations of Crocker and Midland, and to look at how corporate banking can also be coordinated between the two organisations.

De Savary doubles his Lincroft holding

By Andrew Cornelius

Shares in Lincroft Kilgour, the Savile Row tailor and cloth merchant group, yesterday jumped by 12p to 170p on news that Mr Peter de Savary had more than doubled his share stake in the company to 15.8 per cent. Mr de Savary is an expatriate millionaire who financed last year's unsuccessful British attempt to capture the American Cup. He bought the shares from Cedco Holdings, a company controlled by Mr Jeffrey Steiner, a Bermudian-based financier, which has reduced its holding in Lincroft to 16.59 per cent. News of the share trading has led to further speculation about the future of the Lincroft group, which last year fought off a £5.8 million takeover bid from John Plun, the property and construction group then controlled by born-again Christian, Mr Graham Ferguson Lacey.

Last night Mr David Holland, Lincroft's finance director, said that he was happy about Mr de Savary's increased share stake. He said he had met Mr de Savary and "as far as I know the share buying is not going to lead to anything." Mr Holland also accepted the Takeover Panel's verdict that Mr de Savary and Cedco are not acting in concert in buying Lincroft shares. "The Stock Exchange is watching this fairly closely," he said. "I have no doubt that they are acting as individuals." Mr de Savary divides his time between New York, the Bahamas, and Antigua, and has not explained the reasons for his investment. However, his representative attended an extraordinary general meeting of Lincroft held in March at which proposals to introduce an executive share option scheme were shelved because of opposition from three big overseas investors.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Plea from USDAW

USDAW, the main shop workers union, and the Co-op party, are urging Labour MPs to join forces with Liberal, backbench Conservatives and other MPs to reject the Government's motion due on Monday to abolish the 1950 Shops Act. The union met Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, earlier this week hoping to persuade the party of the wide social implications of the legislation. Sunday trading, USDAW has welcomed two other amendments which recognise there is a case for some reduction in the restrictions on shop hours but says any new legislation should protect shopworkers from pressure to work on Sundays.

SHARES in Vickers were boosted 8p to 328p on the news that Reliance has topped up its stake to 6 per cent. They slipped back 4p by the close.

MARYLAND Governor Harry Hughes warned yesterday that the problems facing Maryland's savings banks had undermined confidence in the US banking system and urged state legislators to move swiftly on reform measures.

CADBURY Schweppes has reached agreement to acquire the Australian tea company Tuckfield, which has founded in 1982, has founded in 10 per cent of the Australian tea market. The agreement is subject to the approval of Australia's Foreign Investment Review Board.

Aetna Life in the market for consortium bank

By Peter Rodgers, City Editor

Aetna Life, the US insurance company, is believed to be one of the firms examining whether to buy European Banking Company, the London consortium bank. Other candidates include the US securities firm, Pru-Bache, which has just linked up with Clive Discount in the gilt market, and Security Pacific, the Californian bank. The significance of Aetna's interest is that EBC is to be taken over temporarily by its other shareholders by Midland Bank, as a prelude to disposing of it. Aetna is already negotiating the sale to

Midland of its 40 per cent stake in the merchant bank Samuel Montagu, the balance of which is owned by Midland. There is speculation that if Aetna made a formal offer for EBC it could become its vehicle for developing investment banking in London, alongside Samuel Montagu's subsidiary, Montagu Investment Management, where Aetna may also buy control as part of the engagement from its tie-up with Midland. One organisation which is unlikely to succeed in buying EBC is the giant US broker, Merrill Lynch, which was interested, but EBC Senior management objected.

Cleveland wins a £15m N. Sea contract from BP

By John Hooper, Energy Correspondent

BP said yesterday that it had placed an order worth £15 million with Cleveland Offshore, a subsidiary of Trafalgar House, for the construction of a 55.8 million tonne oil platform in the Forties field. The two units, which include a helideck, will be built at Cleveland's yard on Teesside. They are due to be installed towards the end of 1986 on a supporting framework under construction at Highland Fabricators' yard at Nigg Bay. The platform will be used to extract oil from the south-eastern part of the massive Forties field. It will be remotely con-

trolled from another platform three miles away, but will have accommodation, a communications centre and safety facilities. The contract awarded to Cleveland is the last of the big orders for the South-East Forties project. Worth a total of £45 million, they have all gone to British firms. This is Cleveland Offshore's first big contract from BP, although it has done some work for the company's Magnus Forties Alpha platforms. The latest order will ensure work at the yard during a period when other contracts are running down.

More jobs to be lost in steel industry

By Michael Smith, Industrial Editor

About 500 workers in Manchester and Merseyside are to lose their jobs in the latest cut-backs at the steel industry. Allied Steel & Wire, which is half-owned by the British Steel Corporation, is to buy Manchester Steel from the Norwegian metals firm, Elkem, in a deal which will leave only 130 jobs in the industry. There will be 300 redundancies at Bidston, on Merseyside, and 200 at the rod mill in Manchester. Elkem of Norway yesterday blamed the world over-capacity in steel and the lack of profits at Manchester Steel for the decision to sell the company. Elkem has been overhauling its entire steel operations and reducing its commitment to the industry. Allied Steel's Brian Ford said a close look would be taken at the remaining Man-

chester works of the company, and he declined to give any guarantee that it would not be closed down. "We can't make a decision on that immediately. It needs looking at very closely." Manchester Steel produced steel for other manufacturers to turn into finished products, but there was a large over-capacity in the industry. "Just are not the orders to justify the number of mills." "Closing down Manchester Steel capacity will help stabilise the situation in the rest of the country." As part of the deal between the Norwegians and Allied, Elkem will be taking a small stake in Allied Steel & Wire. However, Elkem and Allied will be making "every effort to minimise the hardship for the workers made redundant." Talks with the trade unions would begin immediately.

Warranty insurer is wound up

Bloomsdale Ltd, the Manchester-based company whose extended warranty scheme for household goods proved worthless, was compulsorily wound up in the High Court in London yesterday. Mr Justice Mervyn Davies said it was in the public interest that the company should be wound up. The order was made on a petition brought by the Department of Trade and Industry under section 35 of the 1967 Companies Act. The company, whose registered office and place of business was at Royce House, Blackfriars Street, Manchester, was not represented and did not oppose the petition. Bloomsdale was registered as a company in 1980 and from February 1983 collected substantial premiums for purportedly insuring domestic appliances beyond the guarantee

manufacturer's guarantee period. Mr Philip Heslop QC, for the DTI, told the judge that the evidence against Bloomsdale included a number of "irate letters" from customers who thought they had taken out policies of extended warranty, but failed to get any satisfaction when they made claims. The company's business for the year ended March 31, 1984, would have attracted value added tax liability of £150,000, which was not reflected in its accounts, he said. Mr Robert Gorsuch, assistant official receiver, told the judge that a statement of affairs put in by Mr Rodney Fenning, a director who resigned in November, showed a deficiency of £1,545,412 between assets and liabilities. Claims of unsecured creditors totalled £1,580,204. About 1,000 claims had been received from the general public.

Kleinwort joins floaters

Kleinwort Benson has followed the clearing banks and become the first merchant bank to issue a new form of capital, \$100 million of a special type of floating rate note which has some of the characteristics of equity. It will count as part of the bank's primary capital.

The issue brings the total of these notes issued in recent weeks to \$3 billion. The US credit rating agency has given NatWest's floating rate notes a better credit rating than Midland's similar issue. NatWest is AA minus, while Midland is BBB plus, on S&P's scale.



DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND CHEMICAL AND PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES
NATIONAL OIL WELL COMPANY (ENTREPRISE NATIONALE DES TRAVAUX AUX Puits)

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CALL TO TENDER No 9151 AY/DIV

The National Oil Well Company (ENTP) is launching a National and International Call To Tender for the supply of:

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS — DIFFERENT CAPACITIES

This invitation to Tender is addressed solely to production companies and amalgamations, company representatives and other intermediaries being excluded, in accordance with the provisions of Law No 78-02 of 11th February, 1978, concerning the State Monopoly of Foreign Trade.

Companies interested in this invitation to Tender may obtain specifications on payment of 400 Algerian Dinars, from the following address: Entreprise Nationale des Travaux aux Puits, Direction des Approvisionnements, 16 Route de Meftah, Oued Smar, El-Harrach, Alger, Algeria — as from the publication date of this Notice.

Tenders drawn up in five (5) copies, should be sent in double sealed and registered packet, to The Secretariat of the Direction Approvisionnements at the above address.

The outer envelope must be anonymous, carrying no marking except the endorsement 'Appel d'Offres National et International No 9151 AY/DIV Confidential' — a ne pas Ouvrir.

Tenders must arrive by noon on Saturday, 29th June, 1985, at the latest. The Option Period shall be 180 days as from the closing date of this invitation to Tender.

Tomkins' share issue for growth

Since buying into Tomkins, Mr. Hutchings has completed two major acquisitions which fit this strategy. In January, 1984, Tomkins bought Ferraris



In the meantime, Tomkins is urging shareholders to support the share offer on the grounds that the company is achieving the twin objectives of growth in earnings per share and divi-

Rosehaugh, whose stock market capitalisation has soared to £75 million after helping to arrange the Woolworth buy-out from the United States, is confident that the company's parent that will give it a £20 million stake for under £4 million, made a pre-tax profit of £1.28 million, £67,000 more than previously in the six months to December 31. No interim dividend is paid.

Rosehaugh Stanhope Developments, in which Mr Stuart Lipton, formerly of Greycoat, has a half share, will pay British Rail £75 million for the sites involved in the office developments. BR will also take a 50 per cent share of the final value. The down payment for the phases of the six-phase de-

Reliant Motor's Rialto three-wheeler car was a victim of the miners' strike and the Tamworth manufacturer's prospects now depend on the success of the new Scimitar sports car and other moves upmarket. There was a heavy loss in the six months to March 31, arising largely from development spending.

Executex recovers

Executive Clothes, the shirt and tailored clothing manufacturer, is raising funds through property sale and leasebacks in Leeds, and shareholders are being asked to approve higher dividends to finance the recovery and expansion programme.

The chairman says that the results for the first two months of this year were "a record for the company" and that the firm's 1982 year's slippage to only minor profitability, particularly in the second half, on higher sales of £4.24 million, an improvement on the £3.8 million of 1981.

About £700,000 will be raised by the property arrangements and up to £1.2 million more may be borrowed. A former chairman and 16-per-cent shareholder, Mr S. Luper, is involved in one of the purchases.

Dealers preferred to take heed of the two per cent rise in industrial production and PSBR figures, which proved to be in line with expectations. The announcement of three new index-linked "tablets" for £400 million was expected and made little impact.

Gilts closed little changed on balance, and leading industrialists ended mixed, with small falls in the majority. Oils were duller than most on continued fears of further

from the price to 240p, still a premium of 40p over the 200p partly-paid offer price. Golds slipped two dollars after the failure of the collapse in the bullion to 165

Main changes: F. H. Tomkins 154p up 8p; Brammer 305p up 7p; Sperry Services 107p up 5p; Brit Airways 40p down 2p; Micro Focus 375p up 75p; BP

FT Ordinary Share Index down 4.2 at 1968.3, FTSE 100 down 4.2 at 2924.7, FTSE 250 down 5.2 at 2924.7, DM 3.85p, Fr 11.89p, Gld \$322.50, Account: May 13 to May 31, FT All Share Index down 3.81 at 637.91, Sterling Index 197.2 (1975 = 100), RPI 37.3 (April) up 6.9, net, net 64 years.

Copper: cash \$1.167 per tonne; three months \$1.150 per tonne	per tonne; Sep \$2.125 per tonne; Dec \$2.164 per tonne
Tin: cash \$9.570 per tonne; three months \$9.523 per tonne	per tonne; Mar \$2.190 per tonne; Apr \$2.195 per tonne
Zinc: cash \$2.95 per tonne; three months \$2.900 per tonne	May \$1.767 per tonne; July \$1.761 per tonne
Lead: cash \$2.68 per tonne; three months \$2.646 per tonne	per tonne; Sep \$1.776 per tonne; Dec \$1.792 per tonne
Aluminum: cash \$1.535 per tray at; three months \$1.524 per tray	per tonne; Mar \$1.760 per tonne; Apr \$1.771 per tonne
Rubber: 100 lb 67.9 per bale; June 72.15 per bale; August 72.5 per tonne; August 73.5 per tonne	Carlin: Liverpool spot price in US cents per pound. US 10-month 1 1/4 inch stock (midnight) 1 1/4 inch stock (midnight) 1 1/4 inch stock (midnight) 1 1/4 inch stock (midnight)
Barrel: 100 lb 67.9 per bale; June 72.15 per bale; August 72.5 per tonne; August 73.5 per tonne	Barrel: 100 lb 67.9 per bale; June 72.15 per bale; August 72.5 per tonne; August 73.5 per tonne
Barrel: 100 lb 67.9 per bale; June 72.15 per bale; August 72.5 per tonne; August 73.5 per tonne	Barrel: 100 lb 67.9 per bale; June 72.15 per bale; August 72.5 per tonne; August 73.5 per tonne

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THURSTAY RATES - BANK GILLS			
Belgium	77.00	Greece	16.1
Canada	26.75	Ireland	2.40
Austria	26.75	Italy	2.40
Denmark	26.75	Netherlands	2.41
France	11.64	Norway	11.04
Germany	5.61	Portugal	210
		Spain	212
		Sweden	1.70
		Switzerland	1.70
		Yugoslavia	207

STERLING RATES		
Closing	Previous	FORWARD RATE
market rates	closing rates	(one month)
Australia	1.8440-1.8060	1.8430-1.8460
Austria	27.32-27.39	27.24-27.28
Canada	78.28-78.64	78.25-78.47
Denmark	13.96-13.99	13.92-14.00
France	11.84-11.89	11.83-11.88
Germany	9.87-9.88	9.88-9.89
Greece	169.74-173.43	169.74-173.11
Hong Kong	9.80-9.81	9.77-9.74
Ireland	1.1834-1.1848	1.2415-1.2430
Italy	2.4794-2.488.61	2.473-2.482
Japan	316.34-317.26	316-317
Netherlands	4.38-4.39	4.39-4.39
Norway	11.24-11.31	11.13-11.21
Portugal	219.94-223.99	220.50-228.55
Spain	219.05-219.69	217.98-218.62
Sweden	11.25-11.27	11.20-11.27
Switzerland	1.26-1.27	1.24-1.25
USA	1.2640-2.2655	1.2600-2.2615

FORWARD RATE (one month)	
15.375 to 13.625 gms premium	
27c to 21c premium	
0.48c to 0.42c premium	
4 gms to 3.75 gms premium	
2 to 2.375c premium	
2 50 to 2 25 pence premium	
4 lire premium to par	
2.25c to 1.875c premium	
0.825 pence to 0.125 pence discount	
95 to 140 pence discount	
3 to 3.75 pence discount	
2 50c to 2.125c premium	

UK HIGH STREET Yr				
Bank deposit: 7-7.125				
Bank base rate: 12.5-12.75	Building society mortgage: 13			
Bank overdraft: 15.75-18	Building society: 7.7 net			
	Finance house rate: 13.5			
UK MONEY MARKETS				
Treasury bill	7 day	1 month	3 months	6 months
Eligible bills		12 1/2	12 1/2	11 1/2
Discount rate	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2
Interbank market	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2
INTERNATIONAL MONEY MARKETS				
Eurodollar		1 month	3 months	6 months
Euro DM		8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
Euro fr		10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2
Euro Sw fr		4 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
US INTEREST RATES:		Federal funds 8 1/2	US prime rates 10 1/2	

WEEK-END MONEY

Saturday May 18 1985 19

NEW laws come into force next week to protect anyone buying goods on credit — whether an HP agreement, bank loan, shop card or credit card — renting or leasing. This is the final scene in the Consumer Credit Act, the long running series which first opened in 1974 and has lasted for eleven years.

The closing stages on May 19 will tie up the loose ends, with a few quick changes for customers and an enormous amount of paper work for the credit companies. Many of the new rights now being formalised are, in fact, already practised by many lenders, to the point that they are not a statutory right already.

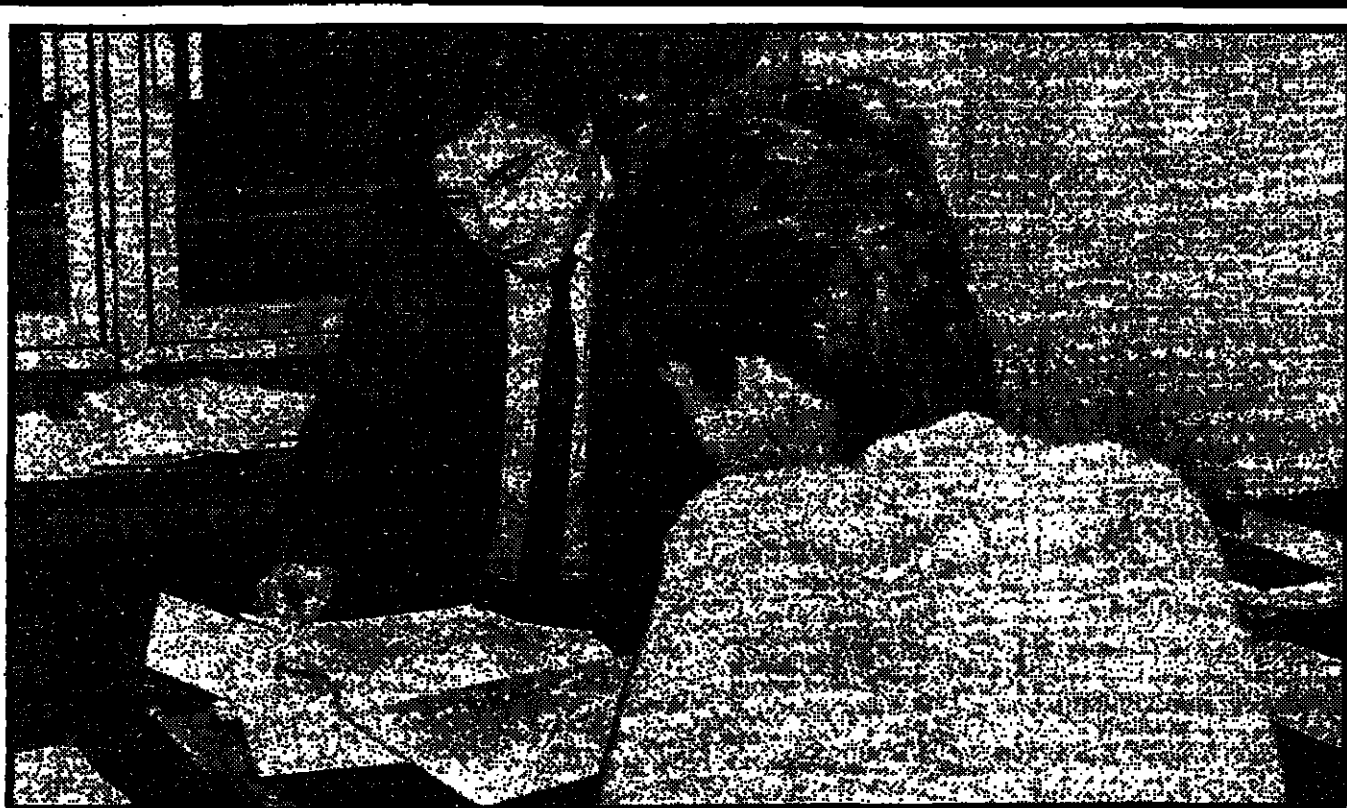
Briefly, the last amendments include:

- the right to cancel a credit agreement signed off the suppliers' premises after a face-to-face talk;
- the right to pay off a debt early and usually receive a rebate;
- the right to a signed copy of the agreement;
- the agreement showing more detailed information;
- an end to small print;
- an increase in the maximum size of the loan covered by law to £15,000.

Any supplier of credit who fails to comply with the Act, which replaces the Hire Purchase Acts, the Moneylenders Acts and the Pawnbrokers Acts, will not be able to enforce the debt.

In the main, the effect of the changes will be noticed by anyone applying for a loan but one exception is the case of joint bank accounts. Now, unless customers agree otherwise, the banks will have to send a statement to each signatory, even when they live at the same address.

Another change affects credit card holders, who will now be liable for a maximum of £50 if their card is lost or



TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT: If you sign on company premises, you can't pull out

Buy now, pay later

Margaret Dibben on the last word in consumer credit protection

stolen and then fraudulently used. At present, the figure is £25 although in practice credit card companies do not impose this penalty when they are sure the cardholder is in no way to blame for the fraud. And once you have informed the company about its loss, then you have no liability at all.

The cooling off period applies to an agreement which you have discussed

with a trader and signed in your own home, or at least not on the supplier's premises. Until five days after you receive a second copy of the signed agreement in the post, you can change your mind about the deal.

But, if you sign the agreement at the company's offices, then you cannot pull out. This is called a non-cancellable agreement.

If you are making a purchase on your credit card, for instance, you will sign for the goods in the shop and have no right to cancel. But if you buy on mail order, through the post, you have 14 days in which to change your mind. If, on the other hand, you deal with an agent in your own home, then the five day cooling off period again applies.

Should the goods turn out to be faulty, then that is a different story and you may be able to sue the supplier, credit company or both.

If you have taken out a personal loan, or bought an item on credit, and subsequently decide you want to pay off the whole debt before the original time limit, then you will be entitled to a rebate of the charges you would otherwise owe. But this does not apply to a running credit account,

such as a credit card or an overdraft.

The agreements will carry more detailed, simply worded, and larger printed information, including the name and address of the supplier, how much the loan will cost you, how much you must repay, what to do if you lose a credit card, and (almost) a warning that "borrowing money can seriously damage your wealth".

All agreements must include a box detailing your rights and where to go for assistance.

Because of this responsibility to communicate with all parties to an agreement, some companies may opt to grant home improvement loans and personal loans in one single name only, to avoid a duplication of effort. This will not apply to mortgages because in general banks only lend more than the maximum £15,000 and building societies are not included within the scope of the Act.

One criticism of the legislation is that the enormous market supplied by building societies is completely outside the stringent requirements of the Consumer Credit Act.

The Office of Fair Trading has published a new booklet providing a very clear guide to all aspects of buying on credit to coincide with the latest legislation. It is called Shop Around for Credit and comes with a warning from the Director General for Fair Trading, Sir Gordon Borrie, that debt can be a trap and a terrible burden if customers do not think carefully before committing themselves.

The booklet is free from local trading standards or consumer protection departments. Citizens Advice Bureaux or the OFT at Room 310C, Field House, Bream's Buildings, London EC4A 1PR.

In brief

First the good news

AT LAST your higher tax allowances, graciously granted by the Chancellor in the Budget last March, will start to show through in pay packets. Salaries received after May 17 will take account of the higher levels, backdated to the start of the tax year on April 6.

Better Access

FRAUD losses are falling, said Access this week. In 1984, 17p in every £100 spent on Access cards was lost to credit card fraudsters; so far this year the figure has fallen to 12p.

The most common outlet for stolen cards is garages, and this is where Access concentrates its efforts to fight fraud.

Bank charges

BARCLAYS Bank is to charge other banks' customers even more for using its services. From June 3, the fee for cashing cheques from Monday to Friday goes up from 50p to 75p a time. On Saturdays the charge stays at £2, both for cashing cheques and paying in, unless you are settling a Barclays bill.

If as a non Barclays customer, you want to pay in a foreign currency cheque, then there will be a new £1 fee on top of the normal rates. On Saturdays the supplement is £2.

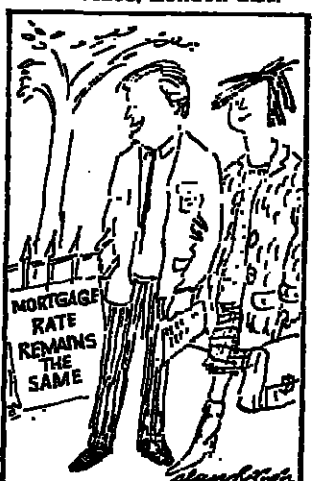
Starter's orders

"LOOKING after your money" is an educational pack produced by the Life Offices Association for students who want a starting guide to money management. A complete package with teachers' notes, five copies of the student book, a leaflet about life insurance and a cassette tape are free to lecturers. In further education, the book alone will be sent free to students; from LOA Information Centre, Buckingham House, 62/63 Queen Street, London EC4R 1AD.

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Talking about tax

MORE help for tax ignoramuses: a free conference open to the public has been organised by the weekly publication Tax File for May 23. Speakers will concentrate on tax saving and planning topics including bond washing, CGT indexation and retirement relief, new NI rates, and capital allowances. Details from Tax File at Valentine Place, London SE1.



"The silly season has started early this year."

On the town

WILMSLOW shopping centre launched its own charge card this week which will start operating in September. The card, giving up to 56 days of free credit, will be accepted by most of the town's 250 traders and may entitle holders to free parking.

Making it a party affair

Stephanie Cooper on who can do what with a joint bank account

THE changes which the Consumer Credit Act will impose on joint bank accounts are pretty marginal and not significant enough to change anyone's view about whether or not they need a joint account.

Whatever sort of account you have, and regardless of how many names are on the cheques, the rules are the same. When two or more people decide to open a joint bank account, the bank manager needs to know just who will be responsible for what. They will all be required to sign a mandate stating which, and how many of them, can sign cheques or carry out other transactions in connection with the account. This mandate can be revoked at any time by any one of them, unless there is an agreement to the contrary. And the death, bankruptcy or mental incapacity of any of them will automatically end the mandate.

Until now, account holders have received one statement at probably monthly intervals. Tomorrow's changes, however, mean that banks will have to send statements to all joint account holders individually unless they receive a "dispensing notice" signed by one out of two joint holders, or two out of three joint holders, saying they are happy to continue receiving just one statement. The banks are encouraging customers living at the same address to do this.

Parties to a joint account are not automatically liable to use each other's credit and the bank should not lend one of them money, either by overdraft or by personal loan, without obtaining from each undertaker to be liable for the debt, both jointly and separately. This is to ensure that if one dies, the loan will be repaid. If someone who is only jointly liable dies, his or her personal representatives will not be liable at all because the joint liability will pass to the surviving account holders alone.

Where a loan to joint borrowers falls within the meaning of a "regulated agreement" under the Consumer Credit Act, a bank will be required to treat each joint borrower as an individual and supply the same documents

tion about the loan to each party. Each borrower/account holder will have to sign the loan agreement, a copy of the agreement and cancellation notice will have to be given to each party and any information required to be given to a party to an agreement under the Act will need to be given to all the account holders.

An overdraft on a cheque account, as opposed to a specific personal loan, is outside the documentation requirements of the Act. If, for example, a husband and wife want an overdraft, this will be marked as such on the account but there will be nothing documented in writing, the argument being that this type of account is always turning over and it would be difficult to document any financial particulars, unlike the details that could be completed in the case of a personal loan.



"Johnson got to the top of the tree and his only reward was vertigo"

On the death of one of the account holders the balance in the account is transferred to the survivor. The bank will want to see the death certificate of the deceased account holder and will need the authority of the surviving holder to close the old account and transfer the money to the survivors. Although the survivors have a legal title to the balance on the account they are not necessarily beneficially entitled to keep the money. They may be regarded as holding it as trustees for others who claim the beneficial interest. This is a matter to be resolved between the survivors and the personal representatives of the deceased party and will depend on the terms on which the account was held.

Williams & Glyn's

Bank

invites you to build a tax-free cash sum... in just 10 years

At Williams & Glyn's Bank we know how to look after other people's money. That's why we are now pleased to be able to offer you the opportunity to invest your money in a new regular savings plan.

After examining the Savings Schemes available our specialist insurance consultants arranged the Flexible Escalator Investment Plan with Sun Life Assurance one of the U.K.'s oldest established and most respected Life Assurance Companies.

The Plan offers an excellent rate of growth, is flexible and gives a tax-free cash return after only 10 years... It's the ideal way to save your money for your important future plans.

START INVESTING AS LITTLE AS £10 PER MONTH

Now you can realise an excellent investment return with favourable tax advantages, for an initial monthly investment starting from £10 - £50, depending on your needs and budget.

HOW YOUR INVESTMENT CAN GROW SO QUICKLY

The Flexible Escalator Investment Plan's excellent rate of growth is due to Sun Life's proven investment record and to the plan's special investment escalator feature which increases your monthly savings amount by 10% of the initial premium at the end of each of the first ten years. The end result is an excellent rate of growth whilst premium increases will probably be in line with your increasing future investment ability.

SPECIALLY FOR MEN AND WOMEN AGED UNDER 50

A TAX-FREE RETURN ANY TIME AFTER 10 YEARS... DEPENDING ON YOUR NEEDS

Because the Flexible Escalator Investment Plan is a "qualifying" life assurance policy your investment return is free of tax after 10 years under current legislation. At that time, you may withdraw your accumulated return, or you may continue your monthly savings to achieve an even greater return. You may cash your policy at any time between 10 and 25 years and receive an excellent tax-free return.

If you have any queries please contact us on SERVICE LINE 0272-428151

How your Flexible Escalator Investment Plan can grow

Your total monthly savings	Your age next birthday	PROJECTED VALUE IN 10 YEARS			OR PROJECTED VALUE IN 15 YEARS			OR PROJECTED VALUE IN 25 YEARS		
		guaranteed sum	with compound interest	additional terminal bonus	guaranteed sum	with compound interest	additional terminal bonus	guaranteed sum	with compound interest	additional terminal bonus
£10	Up to 40	4250	1190	2108	367	2210	4573	945	4250	3488
	41-45	4145	1161	2056	358	2155	4460	922	4145	3402
	46-50	3885	1088	1927	335	2020	4180	864	3885	3188
£20	Up to 40	8500	2380	4216	734	4420	9147	1890	8500	6976
	41-45	8290	2321	4111	716	4311	8821	1844	8290	6804
	46-50	7770	2176	3954	671	4040	8361	1728	7770	6377
£30	Up to 40	12750	3570	6324	1101	6630	13721	2836	12750	10465
	41-45	12435	3482	6167	1074	6488	13382	2766	12435	10206
	46-50	11855	3283	5780	1006	6061	12543	2592	11855	9566
£40	Up to 40	17000	4760	8432	1468	8840	18295	3782	17000	13953
	41-45	16580	4642	8223	1432	8622	17843	3688	16580	13608
	46-50	15540	4351	7707	1342	8061	16724	3457	15540	12755
£50	Up to 40	21250	5950	10540	1836	11050	22869	4727	21250	17442
	41-45	20725	5803	10279	1790	10777	22304	4610	20725	16925
	46-50	19425	5439	9634	1678	10101	20905	4321	19425	15944

Notes * This table assumes you are assured at our ordinary rates of premium * These projected values also assume that our current rates of bonus are maintained - since bonuses come from profits, future rates cannot be guaranteed. Full details of rates of bonus and the methods by which they are allocated will accompany your policy document. * Monthly premiums shown will increase by 10% of the initial amount each year for the first 10 years. After the first ten years' payments, premiums will remain level for the rest of the premium paying term. Your policy will confirm the exact figures. * The Flexible Escalator Investment Plan is a savings contract for a minimum term of ten years and a maximum term of 25 years. Cashing in the contract before ten years is not recommended, as any amount then payable may be less than the total premiums paid. If the amount payable on cashing in within the first 10 years exceeds the total premiums paid there may be some liability to higher rates of income tax on the profit.

YOUR SAVINGS

	% Interest rate	% gross rate for basic rate taxpayer	Tax	& Min
BANKS				
Ordinary savings	7.75	10.10-10.25	paid	10,000
Special savings	8.25-8.75	10.75-11.25	paid	5,000
Home purchase	8.25-8.75	10.75-11.25	paid	5,000
Building societies	8.25	10.75-11.25	paid	100+
High interest	8.25	10.75-11.25	paid	2,000
BUILDING SOCIETIES				
Ordinary savings	7.25	11.75	paid	100
Special savings	7.25	11.75	paid	100
Home purchase	7.25	11.75	paid	100
High interest	7.25	11.75	paid	100
TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANK				
Ordinary savings	7.25	11.75	paid	100
Special savings	7.25	11.75	paid	100
Home purchase	7.25	11.75	paid	100
High interest	7.25	11.75	paid	100
NATIONAL SAVINGS				
Ordinary savings	7.25	11.75	paid	100
Special savings	7.25	11.75	paid	100
Home purchase	7.25	11.75	paid	100
High interest	7.25	11.75	paid	100
NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES (NSCs)				
1-5 years	7.25	11.75	paid	100
6-10 years	7.25	11.75	paid	100
INDEX-LINKED CERTIFICATES				
1-5 years	7.25	11.75	paid	100
6-10 years	7.25	11.75	paid	100
LOCAL AUTHORITIES				
1-5 years	7.25	11.75	paid	100
6-10 years	7.25	11.75	paid	100

Weekend Money is edited by Margaret Dibben

Williams & Glyn's Bank plc

A member of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc

up to
£12,376
after 10 years

up to
£27,596
after 15 years

up to
£82,297
after 25 years

REGULAR BONUSES - A SHARE OF SUN LIFE'S PROFITS...

On top of the guaranteed return this plan gives, you may be entitled to valuable bonus benefits. The cash value of these regular bonuses increases the lump sum cash pay out. And, any time between 10 and 25 years when you decide to cash in the Plan an additional Terminal Bonus may be added to further increase the sum payable. Naturally, as bonuses come from profits, future rates cannot be guaranteed.

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From the day your plan is accepted and all the time you are saving your family will have the security of life assurance protection which will increase as your bonus benefits are allotted. The guaranteed minimum amount of life cover depends on the amount of monthly savings you choose and your age when your plan starts (see table below left).

15-DAY NO OBLIGATION GUARANTEE - NO SALESMAN WILL CALL

On acceptance, you will receive your policy, together with a Personal Benefit Summary; you will have 15 days to examine it at home without obligation - and no salesman will contact you. If not satisfied you may return the policy and have your initial payment refunded in full.

APPLY TODAY WITHOUT OBLIGATION OR BOTHER

- Just look at the table and decide how much you wish to save each month initially.
- Complete the simple Application Form, ticking your chosen initial monthly savings.
- Post the form immediately in an envelope to the FREEPOST address shown, together with your cheque for your first month's premium. No stamp is needed. To qualify for this offer you must apply by the date shown.

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS CAREFULLY AND ACCURATELY

1. Have you received medical attention or sought medical advice during the last 5 years?

2. Are you taking any medication prescribed by a doctor?

3. Has any proposal for life assurance or for schemes or accident insurance on your life been declined or deferred by or withdrawn from any insurance office or accepted on special terms?

If the answer to any of the above questions is "Yes" please give details on a separate piece of paper.

Please make sure that the answers to the questions are accurate. If you are in any doubt whether certain information should be given please give it as failure to disclose facts likely to affect Sun Life's decision could affect the payment of benefits.

I declare that the foregoing statements are to the best of my knowledge and belief true and complete. I consent to Sun Life Assurance seeking medical information from any doctor who at any time has attended me concerning anything which affects my physical or mental health or seeking information from any insurance office to which a proposal has been made for insurance on my life and I authorise the giving of such information.

Signature (or life to be assured) _____

Date _____

Sun Life Assurance Society plc, Registered Office, 107 Cheapside, London EC2N 6DU. Registered in England No. 776273.

M&G INITIAL OFFER INTERNATIONAL INCOME FUND

THE NEW M&G INTERNATIONAL INCOME FUND aims to provide investors with a high income, and one that can be expected to increase over the years, from an international portfolio of equities. The estimated gross starting yield is 6%. It will appeal particularly to people who think it is prudent to have some of their money invested overseas without sacrificing income.

An important part of M&G's reputation is based on providing steadily increasing income from high-yielding unit trusts. In addition we have led the way in the development of overseas trusts, with an investment team that includes specialists in all the important overseas stockmarkets. These two factors are now combined in The M&G International Income Fund.

We believe that there are at present a number of excellent opportunities around the world for buying shares with high yields. You should remember that exchange rate fluctuations may affect our ability to provide an increase in income every year. We expect the initial geographical spread to be broadly as follows:

USA 40% Hong Kong 10% Europe 7%
UK 20% Australia 8% Japan 5%
Gold shares 10%

Unit trusts are a long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice. The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

During the initial offer (closing 31st May 1985) applications of £2,000 or more will receive an extra 1% allocation of units.

Applications will be acknowledged and Certificates will be posted on or before 28th June 1985. Once the initial offer has closed units can be bought or sold on any business day at the prices then ruling by writing to or telephoning M&G (Unit Dealing Department), Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ. Telephone: 01-283 5362.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Income units and Accumulation units are both available. Distributions on Income units will be paid net of basic-rate tax on 1st June and 1st December, starting with an interim distribution on 1st December 1985. Income on Accumulation units is reinvested to increase their value and holders will receive an annual tax voucher starting in December 1986. Prices and yields will appear daily in the Financial Times and The Daily Telegraph. Unit holders will receive a registered certificate for their units, issued by the Trustee, and a Managers' Report every six months. Management charges: A preliminary

charge of 5% of the value of each unit issued is included in the price and an annual charge of 1% (plus VAT) of the value of the Fund will be deducted from its gross income. Remuneration is payable to accredited agents; rates are available on request. A copy of the Trust Deed may be inspected at the head office of the Trustee or at M&G's London Office. Auditors to the Fund: Deloitte Haskins & Sells. Taxation: The Fund does not pay tax on capital gains. Income is distributed (or retained) net of income tax at the basic rate. The Fund is a wider-range investment under the Trustee Investments Act, 1961, and is authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. Application has been made to The Council of the Stock Exchange for the units to be admitted to The Official List. The Trustee is Lloyds Bank Plc.

M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ.

INITIAL OFFER CLOSES 31st MAY

During the initial offer, which will close on 31st May 1985, applications of £2,000 or more will receive an extra 1% allocation of units.

The Managers reserve the right to decline subscriptions at any time and you are recommended to apply as soon as possible, but in any event applications with cheques must reach us by 31st May 1985.

To: M&G Securities Limited,
Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ

Please invest £ .00 in INCOME/ACCUMULATION

units (delete as applicable or Income units will be issued) of The M&G International Income Fund at 50p each (minimum investment £500). My cheque, payable to M&G Securities Limited, is enclosed. APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE CHEQUES.

Are you an existing M&G Unitholder? YES/NO

02	MR/MRS/MISS	FULL FORENAME(S)
SURNAME		
04	ADDRESS	
POST CODE		
BIG		

SIGNATURE _____
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Registered in England No. 20776 Reg. Office at address (The offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland)

M&G SECURITIES



Older and none the wiser

Will they or won't they abolish the state earnings related pensions scheme? Margaret Dibben highlights the problems for today's pensioners and tomorrow's wage earners

MR NORMAN FOWLER missed the massed ranks of the National Association of Pension Funds in Harrogate this week but rumour and interpretation swirled round the story that the Government is planning to abolish the state earnings related pension scheme, which, since it became newsworthy, has deteriorated into the acronym serps.

Nothing is finalised and certainly no details will be confirmed until the Government publishes its package of intentions immediately after the Whitson break. But this is no consolation to anyone who has or is about to become dependent on a state pension.

Among all the guesswork, there is one fact to hold on to: The Government simply could not allow large numbers of pensioners to suffer hardship through a change of policy. It would be political suicide. But a changeover period invariably means that some come out better than others.

The problem for the Government is that the state pension is a "pay as you go" scheme. That means the money you are paying in National Insurance contributions now, goes straight out to today's pensioners. You are not building up a fund for yourself; when younger people come to retire, they are dependent on those still

working to pay their pensions. But, if later on these employed people are having to put money aside into a personal pension because serps has been scrapped, they are going to complain about having to pay the same level of state contributions.

On the other hand, if they are allowed to pay less and divert the cash to their own pension, then the Government will not have the funds coming in to pay pensioners. Current calculations are based on the assumption of a continuing state pension scheme.

Assuming serps does go, someone early in a career will have time to start building up a personal pension, hopefully using the money saved from lower National Insurance contributions.

But those who are close to retirement do not have this time. They will need to rely on receiving a pension from the rights they have already

earned in the state scheme over the years. The later in life that you start paying into a private pension, the more expensive it is.

A pension scheme has been abandoned before, although certainly not one on the scale of serps. In 1978, the graduated pension scheme was frozen; anyone who made contributions during the 14 years it was in existence will, when they retire, receive a minimal graduated pension. These contributions have now also been index linked.

It may be that the Government will phase out serps over a number of years rather than kill it instantly. But whatever the outcome of Cabinet battles, any changes to the pension scheme are not likely to come into effect for some years given the slow pace of the legislative process.

There is nothing to do at the moment but wait and see.

A well heeled foot in the door

As doorstep selling moves ever more upmarket, Mary Brazier reports on the safeguards that protect the interests of unit trust investors

YOU can buy dishcloths or double glazing, cosmetics or life assurance on your own doorstep, and the selling techniques may range from foot in the door to smooth, fireside chat. You may have an equally refined way of sending the salesmen packing. But what should you do if the foot in the door is peddling not pears, but unit trusts and offering you the prospect of an enticingly attractive return on your money?

There is a good chance it will happen. Major companies in the middle of a revolution in financial services are attacking the doorstep market for financial products and direct selling of investments like unit trusts is on the increase. Earlier this month the Prudential entered the market, aiming for 2,500 unit trust salesmen. Now Guardian Royal Exchange is planning to set up a direct sales force, principally to sell life insurance but subsequently other products such as unit trusts. GRE has brought in Mr Ian Swann from Royal Insurance and hopes to have its salesmen on the streets by the beginning of next year.

There are strict regulations to give you as the investor some protection against misleading unit trust salesmen. First, they are not allowed to "cold canvass" which leaves the initiative with you to ask for information about unit trusts. This means that if you are buying life assurance the salesman cannot try and sell you a unit trust investment in the same package.

Secondly, the law says you must not be hurried into making an investment. The salesman is not allowed to ask for a decision until he has visited you at least twice. On the first visit there should be some literature telling you at the very least which funds are available, what they offer and what it is going to cost you. The salesman must then make an appointment, at a time convenient to you, to return and discuss the proposition further. This is most important because, unlike life assurance, unit trust investments do not enjoy a "cooling off period" once you have decided to buy.

If you sign on the dotted line you are irrevocably committed to buying unit trusts, so the gap between a first and second visit to your house may be the only time you have to reflect on whether this is the right investment and whether you can afford it. Even if your investment has gone down in value by the time of next visit, you cannot change your mind once you have signed.

There is another fun-

damental difference between life assurance and unit trust purchases and that is the nature of the investment. Buy life assurance and at the very least the capital you invest is protected. There is no such guarantee on unit trusts, which are in that sense a much riskier business. So some of the companies in the field suggest additional safeguards which, as a potential investor, you can apply yourself.

Check the credentials of the salesperson and the company he is representing. Companies like Hambro Life and the Pru have a special training scheme for personnel who sell unit trusts. There is also an exam in the technique of investment.

When you make an appointment to see anyone, check to find out exactly which company they are representing and whether the company has any kind of track record in running unit trusts. You should be offered a range of trusts to invest in. Be suspicious if you are offered exciting-sounding investments or trusts which specialise in far flung geographical areas but nothing fairly simple, such as ordinary income funds.

If the sales force is worth its salt you should be asked quite a lot of questions. What are your circumstances? Can you afford the investment out of additional disposable income? What are your investments—will you need the dividends to pay your household bills? Only by finding out these basic facts can you both be sure that you are not taking on something you cannot manage and that you are getting the right kind of investment.

Ask for any proposals to be put to you in writing, preferably on company headed notepaper, and signed by the salesperson. Ambitious personnel are likely to be more cautious if they have to commit themselves on paper in any case according to one company, Hambro Life, you should beware of projections of future returns on your investment. For many companies it is accepted practice when selling life assurance to suggest what your investment could be worth in five or ten years hence, but it is a much more dangerous and nonsensical game to play with unit trusts.

The commission on unit trusts is lower than on life assurance sales, but you may still be the victim of hard sell if, because of that, the rep feels he or she has to sell more to make up his or her own income. But you do not need to feel bullied. There are other people you can consult to see whether the deal you are being offered is sound. The industry tends to be slightly sceptical about the value of seeking advice from, say, bank managers because they too are selling financial products, or from accountants or solicitors who, the industry claims, are not trained to evaluate particular investments.

Finally, if you are still uneasy about either the product or the way it is being offered to you, there is one further option. Shut the door.

YOUR MONEY LETTERS

answered by Margaret Dibben

House for sale

MY WIFE and I own two houses in our joint names. I am restoring one of them and we live in the other. When I have finished we may sell one of our properties. Are we liable for capital gains tax? If so, what steps should we take to minimise or eliminate such liability? Should one of us live in each house?—R.B., (Dorset).

THERE is an exemption from capital gains tax for one principal private residence per person, or per married couple. A disposal of a second house would be chargeable to CGT. This gain would not be mitigated by one of you living in each house, but if both of you were to make the second property, which you are restoring, your main residence for a short period, then there would be a significant saving. The gain would be spread over the period of ownership. The first two years apportioned gain would be treated as exempt as a result of this move.

In any event the original cost and restoration costs are deductible from the sale price, as is relief for inflation on those items over the period of ownership.

Student income

WE are paying our student daughter a covenant of £1,500

a year on which she claims tax up to the limit of person's allowance of £2,205. If she takes a vacation job will this reduce the amount of tax she can reclaim? It seems unfair that if she received a tax-free grant from the local authority she would be able to earn £2,205 also without paying tax.—M.L.A.H., Tewkesbury.

THE Inland Revenue, somewhat surprisingly, says many people, nodes through covenant gifts as earnings so that the personal allowance can be brought into play by non-earners. It must be remembered, however, that any tax reclaimed (limited to the 30 per cent basic rate) must have been paid by the parent. Any income earned by the student in excess of the personal allowance immediately becomes taxable, and the tax reclaimed reduces the value of the covenant to that extent.

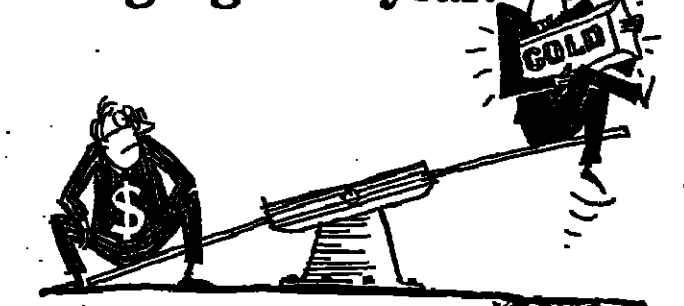
Family trust

I RECENTLY set up a family trust to reduce the tax payable on my death. I am transferring £10,000 to the trust in such sums that will be covered by the annual £3,000 exemption for capital transfer tax.

My son will be married in the near future and I understand that as a wedding present I can give him £5,000. Will this be reduced by the £3,000 exemption for that year to the family trust or will the £5,000 be unaffected by the limit?—L.J., (Clwyd).

THE CTT marriage exemption for a gift from a parent is in fact £5,000 not £3,000. This exemption is separate from the annual exemption that you are quite wisely using to set up the trust. Therefore, a marriage gift of £5,000 will be exempt, as is the creation of the trust. Do note that the gift should be made, or at least promised, before the wedding day. You could also give £250 to your future daughter-in-law!

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£20 A MONTH CAN ACCUMULATE A LOT OF MONEY

If you had chosen fifteen years ago to save £20 a month in a building society, and had left the interest to accumulate, by 1st April 1985 your total outlay of £3,600 would have built up to £7,213. On the other hand, if you had chosen to save the same amount each month in one of our larger unit trusts, M&G SECOND General Trust Fund, you would have built up an investment worth £17,219, an extra £10,006.

You can start an M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan with as little as £20. You need not subscribe regularly but we strongly recommend that you do so, by completing the Bankers Order form. By saving a regular amount you make fluctuations in the stockmarket work to your advantage because more units are bought when their price is low than when it is high.

Unit Trusts are an excellent method of investing in the various stockmarkets of the world, and are ideal for regular investment over the longer term. They are not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

Your Savings Plan subscriptions go into Accumulation units of the Fund you choose and income is reinvested automatically after basic-rate tax. Further details of the Funds and

WHAT YOU COULD HAVE ACCUMULATED FOR £20 A MONTH BY 1st APRIL 1985

	5 YEARS from 1st April 1980	10 YEARS from 1st April 1975	15 YEARS from 1st April 1970
Amount paid in	1,200	2,400	3,600
M&G Dividend	2,483	7,996	18,397
M&G Recovery	2,182	9,253	25,747
M&G SECOND	2,214	7,876	17,219
FT Industrial Ordinary Index	2,104	5,931	11,294
Building Society Savings Account	1,496	3,839	7,213

Source: Planned Savings. All performance figures include income reinvested net of basic-rate tax. The figures for the M&G Funds are 'bid' prices. You should remember that past performance is no guarantee for the future.

the rules of the plan are available on request. All the Funds are wide-range securities and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

The only charges are those you normally pay with unit trusts—5% included in the initial price of units and up to 1% annually (currently limited to 3% except for International Income Fund which is 1% for management). There are no extra charges for this Savings Plan.

You can vary the amount you pay and you are free to cash in your accumulated investment, or part of it, at any time without penalty. The securities in a unit trust are held in safe custody by the Trustee (one of the major banks). You can follow the progress of your plan by looking up the price of units and the current yield in the Financial Times or other leading newspapers. You buy units at the 'offer' price and sell at the 'bid' price.

SAVINGS PLANS FOR CHILDREN
The minimum age for the Unit Trust Savings Plan is 14, but accounts for younger children can be opened in the name of an adult and designated with the child's full name.

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TO: M&G SECURITIES LTD., THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ

I WISH TO SUBSCRIBE £ .00 (min £20)

each month to the M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan and I enclose a cheque (made payable to M&G Securities Limited) for my first subscription of £ .00 (you may wish to start your plan with a lump sum).

I wish my subscription to be invested in the Fund checked.

My Bank Sorting Code - - Personal Bank Account No See your cheque book for details

Please pay to National Westminster Bank PLC, 131 Molesham Street, Chalfont St Giles, Bucks HP8 4LN, Account No. 5513270 for the credit of M&G Securities Limited (SAVINGS PLAN ACCOUNT), quoting Account No. (PLEASE BLANK) the sum of £ .00 on the day of 19 and continue to pay that amount on the day of each month/quarter until further order in writing from me, and debit my account with you from time to time with such payments.

FROM (SIGNATURE AND FULL NAME) _____

ADDRESS _____

SIGNATURE _____

TO: M&G SECURITIES LTD., THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ

If no Fund is ordered your plan will be linked to M&G SECOND.

AMERICAN & GEN. INTL. INCOME	JAPAN & GEN. INTL. INCOME
AUSTRALASIAN GROWTH	MIDLAND RECOVERY
DIVIDEND GROWTH	SECOND GOLD
INTERNATIONAL GROWTH	

The units will be registered in the name of M&G Securities Limited and held for your account under the rules of the plan. If the Savings Plan account is being opened for the benefit of a child, please fill in here the full name of the child.

I understand that further subscriptions can be made at any time (minimum £20) and that I can vary my holdings on any business day without penalty at the bid price ruling.

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

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THE M&G GROUP

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Brendan Bird (left) and John Keane

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OF A DOUBLE GLAZING WHOLESALE,

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A very varied stock of tea sets, dinner sets, plates, cooking bowls,
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**More Entertain-
ments appear on
page 21**

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1033-1037.

Report

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Chicago Tribune	9 00	News 9 9	Financial Review	9 30
Financial News	9 40	World	9 45	

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Channel 4

8 30 Appeal: Catholic Housing Aid Society.
9 0 News; Sunday Papers.
9 15 Letter from America by Alstair Cooke.
9 30 Morning Service.
10 15 The Archers. Omnibus edition
11 15 The Food Programme.
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2 0 News; Gardeners' Question Time
2 30 Afternoon Play: *Kathin Waters* by
Leigh Jackson. Hosted by an
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4 0 News; Night Out in Novosibirsk
Siberian cultural life.
4 30 Talk of the Town. Talk of the
Country. British dialect 1
Lawrence's Eastward.
6 0 News; Sir Ardian Boul. Profile
6 0 News, Feedback.
6 30 Bookshelf.
7 0 The Meisterspinger Thriller
serial by H. G. Wells.
7 30 The Thatcher Phenomenon 5:
Hugo Young examines Mrs T's
economic policies
8 0 The Leopard. Creation of a sculpt-
ure.
8 30 A Word in Edgeways.
9 0 News; Daughters and Sons by J.
Compton-Burnett (3)
10 0 News; You the Jury. Debate on
alternative ways of funding local
government.
11 0 There's Music in God. Music and
theologians. 5: Dietrich
Bonhoeffer.
11 15 Sunday Payment.
12 0 News; weather; interval.
12 33 Shipping forecast.
VHF: 6 45-7 45 am Open University.
4 0-6 pm Study on 4.
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Prospect 2 30 The Archie Wonders
Interview 2 50 Tales of Long Ago 3 0
Along the River 3 15

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